

5—Complete Stories—5

The Black Cat



A Postal Card Tragedy.
E. F. Bishop.

The Gratitude of Mrs. Hatch.
G. B. Dunham.

Ely's Automatic Housemaid.
Elizabeth W. Bellamy.

The Curse of Zulma Rebeya.
Rheta Childe Dorr.

To Save a Stainless Name.
Catharine Young Glen.



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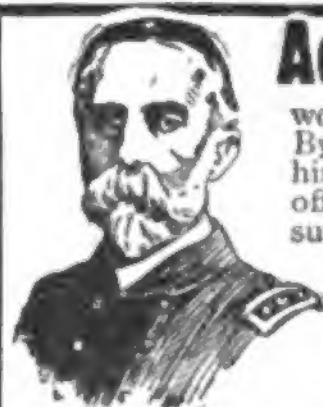
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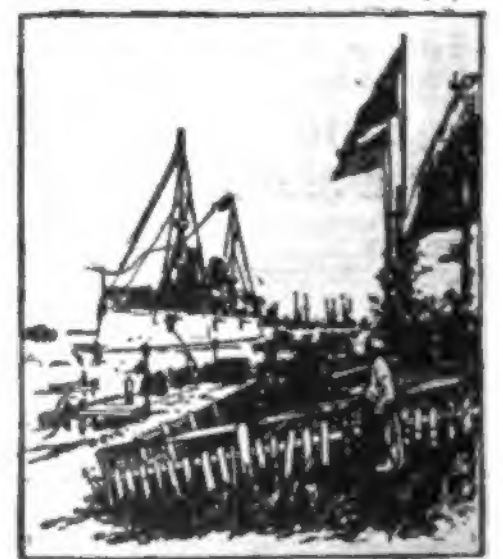
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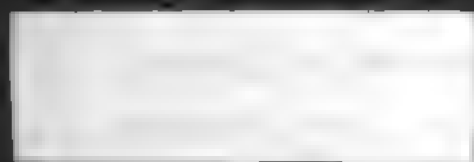
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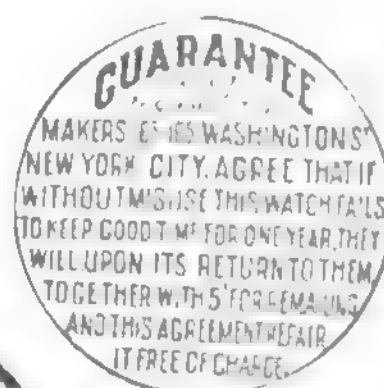
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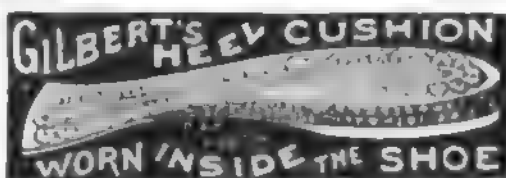
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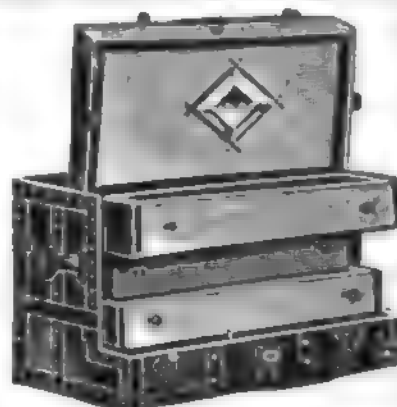
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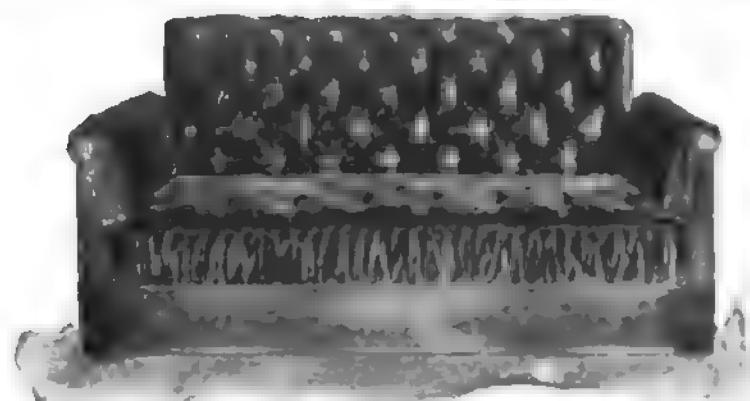
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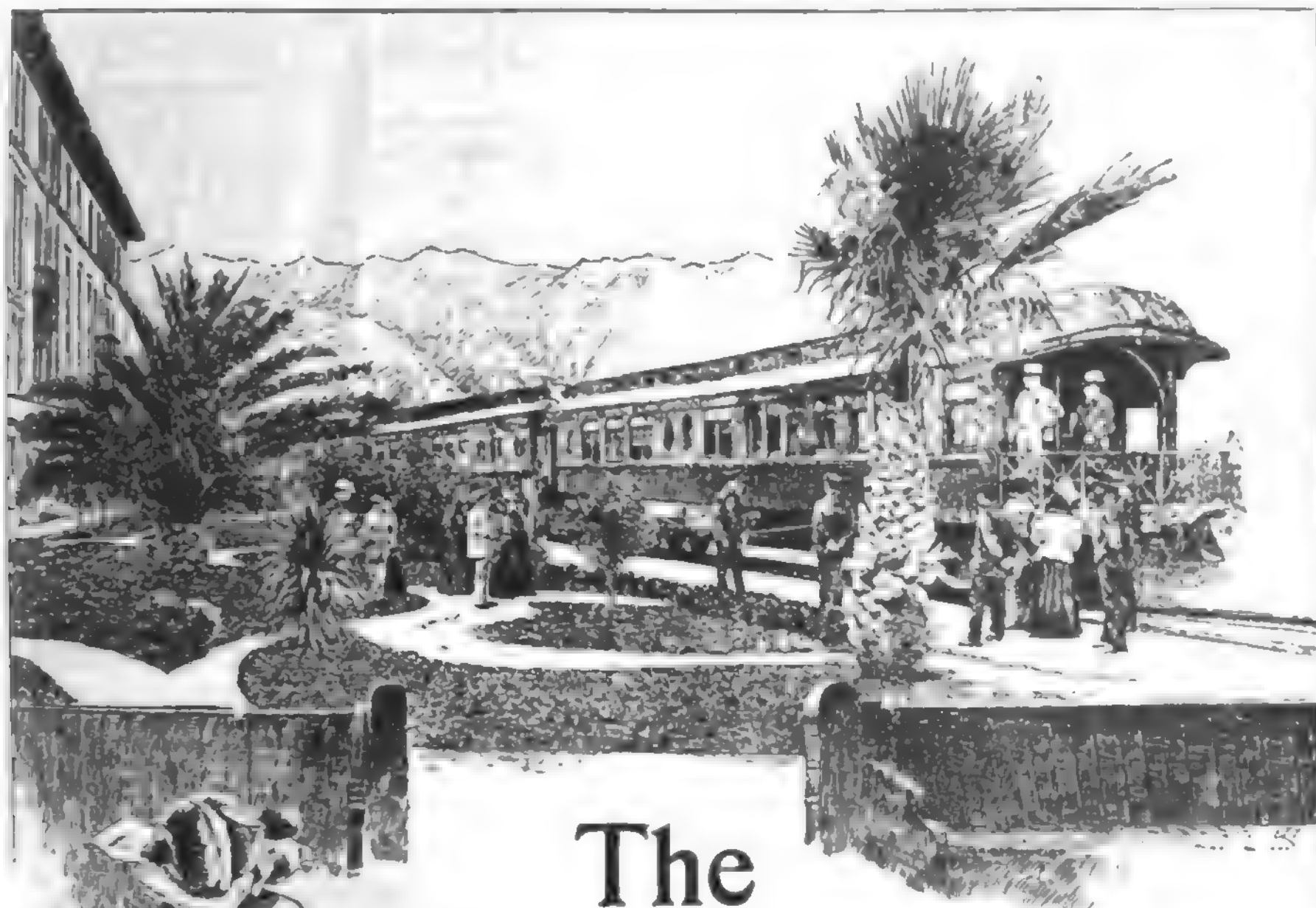
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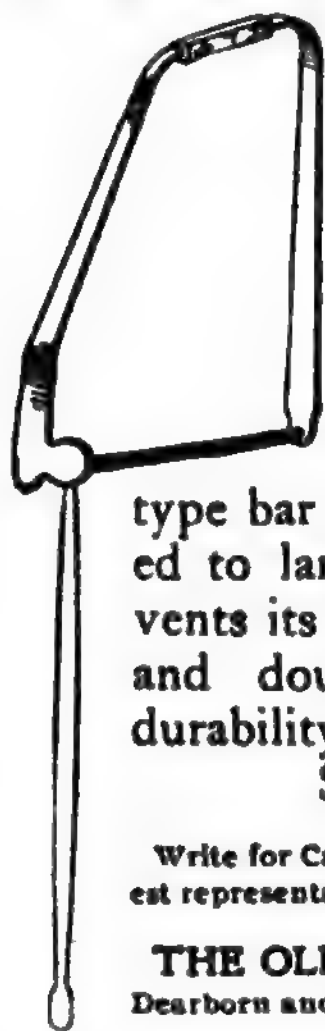
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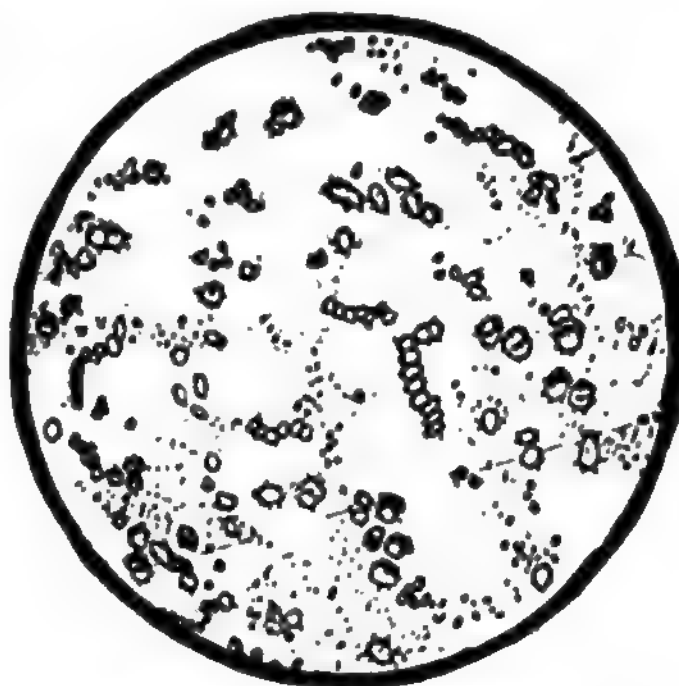
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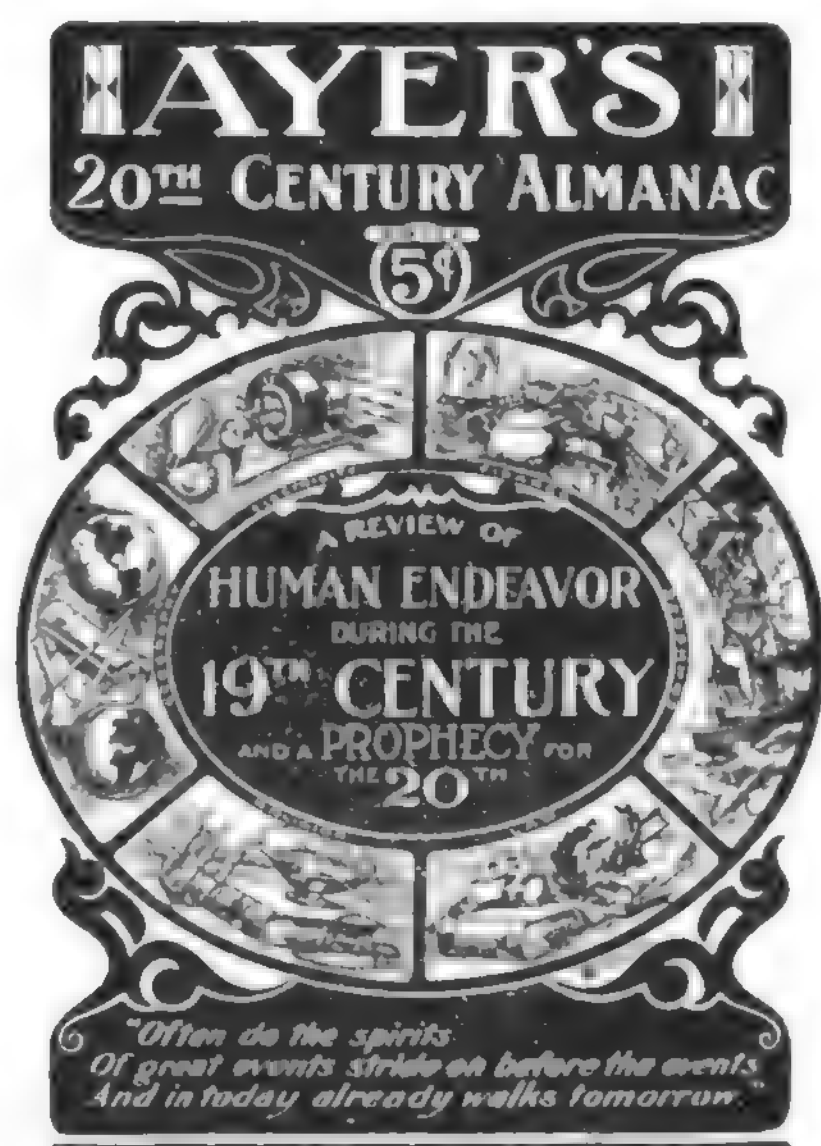
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The Black Cat

A Monthly Magazine of Original Short Stories.

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No. 51.

DECEMBER, 1899.

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A Postal Card Tragedy.*

BY E. F. BISHOP.



O doubt Sir Rowland Hill foresaw much of the enormous increase of correspondence which his great penny postage reform was sure to cause, and he survived to witness a great part of it in his own country, and indeed even lived to see the post card, and to know of the introduction of its American cousin, the postal card, into the United States.

But even his sanguine mind could not have conceived of the extravagant fashion in which the "postals" were welcomed by Americans, to whom they doubly recommended themselves by their convenience and novelty. In the early seventies thousands were bought and sent by everybody to anybody—about anything. It was an amusement so fascinating and inexpensive that the young fairly revelled in it.

George Reade was a member of a junior class in a well-known boys' school in which the "craze" had an extensive run. The boys bought them by the pack and showered them upon relatives, friends and acquaintances, and finally upon entire strangers. The newspapers told of one ingenious writer who succeeded in having

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a card sent round the world and returned to him — a performance which the postal regulations now forbid — and young Reade's schoolmates emulated the achievement, but without success. Then they began to write absurd messages to creatures of their imagination. No replies were expected or received, but the boys delighted in showing each other these foolish productions and chuckling over imaginary annoyances of rural postmasters in remote regions in endeavoring to find claimants for "postals" that never would be called for.

The specialty which George Reade had determined to master was mineralogy, with a view to ultimate mining, and of course, an eventual fortune. The waste places on the maps in his atlas — those marked "unknown" and "unexplored" — had for him an especial attraction, and any large district in the great West where few towns were marked his fancy readily filled with auriferous ledges, mother-lodes and El Dorado pockets. Maps of northwestern States he found particularly interesting, so much of them was blank in those days, save for a few devious streams and a host of little lakes, mostly unnamed. In the northern half of one State there was scarcely a post-office indicated. This was before Reade had heard of "star routes," but he had just familiarized himself with the postal card, and felt that here would be a grand way to stimulate the postal service and call the attention of the authorities to the needs of a slighted section, for he was convinced that there must be *some* inhabitants in such a great stretch of country.

Accordingly, he determined to bring to the attention of the Post-office Department the lack of facilities in this neglected region. Directly in the centre of the emptiest portion of the map he found a long, narrow, winding lake, named "Vermilion." No settlement appeared anywhere within scores of miles, but of course there ought to be a settlement — with a post-office — in such an eligible site, and naturally it should take its name from the lake. So Reade sat down and carefully addressed a postal as follows:

JOHN W. WATSON, VERMILION LAKE, SHERIDAN COUNTY, MINNESOTA, U. S. A.

Why he wrote Watson at all — much less John W. — he did not know then and does not know now. He never knew personally a Watson, and never has, to this day. But telepathy antedates wireless telegraphy. However, Reade was seeking for no explanation, occult or otherwise, of this choice of a name, but was intent only at the time on the composition of his missive to the unknown Watson, which finally took this form:

TILTON HALL, Albany, N. Y., June 5, 1874.

My Dear Watson:

Don't forget your promise to find a good vein for me. I shall reach your place in the spring of '84, with tools, powder and provisions. Have boats ready for me.

Your true friend,

GEORGE A. READE.

Young Reade's mind was full of mines and mining, and, knowing nothing to the contrary, he assumed all the rocks in the region selected to be metalliferous. So he gloated over the puzzle which he supposed this absurd card would afford to numerous postal clerks and postmasters, not imagining that they would read nothing but the addressed side. He was educated, of course, above the grade of those who address acquaintance and stranger alike as "friend," and he could not have told why he employed that form, unless it were an unconscious assumption of the inferior social rank of his mythical correspondent. However, Reade dropped his card, the last of the kind he ever wrote, in the nearest mail box, and soon forgot all about it.

In 1877 he had completed his course in this preparatory school and entered a scientific institution, from which he was graduated in due course as a mining engineer. The first position he obtained was not a particularly promising one, but he was soon sent West on a fair salary, and now fully embarked on a career in which practice speedily displaced theory, he was here, there and everywhere among Western mining camps.

In June, 1884, George Reade arrived in Denver, and found there awaiting him a quantity of mail matter, including a letter from his mother, enclosing a postal card addressed to him at Albany, forwarded by the principal of his old preparatory school. It read:

vermillion lake may 25 1884

dear george

the ice is gone out of the lake some time why aint you come yet I have everything all-ready. Come quick bring powder and grub pless hurry up

your Friend

J W WATSON

Reade was mystified. He read the card twice, looked at the address again, saw that it surely was directed to him, and finally threw it into the waste basket, being unable to decide whether it was simply a mistake or a joke.

Two or three weeks later his mother enclosed him a second postal card in the same hand as the first. It said :

for gods sake come soon if you dont some of these fellers may jump it and i am stone broke. I tell you the show is a good one and nobody is on to it but me

your friend

JOHN

"Well," thought Reade, "this is *odd*." In vain he cudgelled his memory. He knew no one of the name of Watson, had no familiar "friend" John, and had made no agreement to go anywhere, with anybody. So he threw his second card away.

Ten days later came a third card, enclosed in an enquiry from Reade's mother as to what it all meant. The third card ran as follows :

if you dont come why dont you rite be you sick I tell you this wont keep much longer and the winter comes early here

This was too much for Reade. The distress of the writer seemed so genuine that he couldn't help feeling sorry for him, and yet he disliked very much being troubled with the lamentations of this unknown Jeremiah. "Where is Vermilion Lake, anyhow?" he wondered, as with cross words he tore up the puzzling communication.

By this time midsummer had arrived, and George went East on a vacation, well pleased with his Western successes, and eager to talk again with family and friends. Among the latter were two or three schoolmates, and they recalled old times with almost boyish interest. As he lit his pipe one evening one of them suddenly exclaimed :

"Do you remember our postal card craze? I believe I wrote cards to Bismarck and the King of Siam. What a funny freak it was!"

"Yes," replied George, "it seemed so ridiculously cheap in those days to send the equivalent of a letter — stamp, stationery and all — for a single cent. But I remember I always wrote my bogus epistles in the innocent supposition that they would be eagerly read by every postal employee who handled them. What kids we were!"

But when his friends had gone Reade's mind continued to dwell on this particular phase of boyhood's freaks, and in thinking of postal cards he could not dismiss from recollection his mysterious correspondent, Watson, and the desire to know the location of Vermilion Lake grew upon him. Taking down a Gazetteer, he found that there were a number of Vermilion Lakes but that he had never been near any of them. Obviously, he thought, he was not the Reade wanted by somebody somewhere, and so he shut the book and went to bed.

The next morning one of George's sisters brought in the mail. It contained still another card from "Watson," directed this time to his home and not, as the previous ones had been, to the school. The writer said :

why didnt you write me you had moved. mebbe you didnt get my other letters I am getting pretty low in grub so hurry up the boys all think I am crazy writing for you to come be quick and fetch lots of grub i have the vein alright.

your friend

J W WATSON

Reade's puzzle was renewed. He could make nothing of it. He had seen from the first that his correspondent was uneducated, but now when he studied the shaky writing it occurred to him that its sinuosities might be the result of the tremor of age. He regretted that he had not answered one of the previous cards, addressing it at random to Vermilion Lake, as a line would suffice to inform Watson that his communications were going to the wrong Reade. He resolved to write that very day, but forgot it altogether in some diversions planned by his sisters, and the matter did not surmount the threshold of consciousness again till he had returned to the West and the mail from home brought him a reminder in this shape :

for gods sake what is the matter why dont you come i am starving and you promised you would come last spring sure if you dont come soon it will be to late I cant hang on alone much longer minnesoty winters begin early

Here was a practical hint which Reade now lost no time in following up. He wrote at once to Vermilion Lake, Minnesota — not on a postal card — informing Watson that he had received a number of cards from him evidently intended for some other Reade, and regretting that he had not been able to notify him sooner. This salved his conscience, and he supposed he had

heard the last of his unknown correspondent. But not long afterward he received the following :

dear gerge

not much i aint made no mistake didnt you rite me in '74 you would be here in the spring of '84 I have waited to long now winter is not far off bring six months grub i am half ded.

your Frend

J W WATSON

This was really astounding, and Reade could not get the matter out of his head, day or night. Who could this mysterious Watson be, and why was he afflicted with his disappointments? Procuring a Postal Guide, George found that there actually was a Vermilion Lake, Minnesota, and going to a map he looked up its exact location. While doing so his mind half-consciously reverted to his recent conversation with his schoolmates and traveled back to the days they had recalled, and in a flash, the resurrection of a long dormant memory, came a recollection of that last boyish postal card, written to some imaginary person ten years before, and he realized that he was the right George A. Reade, to whom all those puzzling cards had been written! What an absurd, thoughtless prank it had been, and now it had resulted in causing trouble, and apparently actual suffering, to a fellow-being of whose very existence he had been ignorant when he first wrote.

Full of contrition, he now wrote, explaining at length the circumstances under which the first card was written by a mere boy, expressing deep regret, and enquiring what he could do to make amends and especially why Watson seemed so eager to see him.

He was now deeply interested, and awaited with impatience a reply. From Watson's previous importunity he had expected promptness in this instance, but instead there was a long interval of silence. Then there came a rather official-looking document, bearing very distinctly the Vermilion Lake post-office stamp. It proved to be from the postmaster himself, and stated that John W. Watson had died there, after an illness of several weeks, leaving all his property to George A. Reade, but that all his visible effects consisted of an old rifle, a canoe and some papers whose contents were unknown. Enough had been realized from the sale of these few assets to defray funeral expenses, with the exception of a balance of \$4.50. Would Mr. Reade please remit that

amount? Watson, the writer stated, had always spoken of Reade as the only friend he had in the world, and was always expecting a visit from him. The postmaster added that he feared the old man had really starved to death, having all summer, though too old to hunt or fish much, refused several offers of assistance, saying that his friend Reade was coming soon and would see him through.

George Reade dropped his work, and took the first train to a point where he could catch a stage for Vermilion Lake. Forty mile of rough riding took him to a collection of twenty or thirty log shanties, where the storekeeper's sign directed him to the post-office. A short, stout man came forward when that official was asked for, and to him Reade told his errand, and asked about Watson.

"We-l-l," said he, "John was a pecooliar cuss. Never knowed him, you say? He was mortal fond of you — never stopped talk-in' 'bout you these last ten years. He had a camp up the lake here, 'bout nine miles, and would mostly paddle down Saturday nights and set here talkin' 'bout you. Couldn't talk 'bout nothin' else, I guess. Said you was the only friend he ever had. He'd no family — said they was all dead — and that no man ever called him a friend but you; that is, outside of some of us fellers, but guess we didn't count. He wanted to see you pretty bad ever sence last May — used to expect you every week, almost. Finally, 'bout last June, he came down here and stayed till he died. Said you was due every day, and used to write you postal cards. Said they was the best thing this government ever did — showed they thought of the poor man sometimes.

"We-l-l, toward the last he slept here, when he didn't sleep out, and he got lower and lower. Made me swear I would keep some papers he had and give 'em to you when you did come. Here they are. He had a hard time writin' 'em. He got pretty thin, and petered out after that. I sold his outfit, but kept them papers. No good, I suppose? Some of the boys thought he was sort of off in his head, but he wasn't — just queer. Yes, thank you, \$4.50, that's right. He said you'd make up anythin' short. Wasn't any relation, you say?"

"No," answered Reade, "just a friend."

The "papers" consisted of a few sheets of white wrapping paper, such as storekeepers use, laboriously covered with pencil writing, in a large, cramped hand. The one of greatest immediate interest to Reade was as follows:

Dear george

I cant last any longer you oughter came in the spring you was the only friend i ever had I kept yure card and waited & mebbe i waited to long the iron is there & you can find it all right by following up back of my place to the big pine with the X blaze then go N E about 100 rod to a big rock covered with moss you cant miss it. then go East 20 rod to a bull pine then N to where the ledge-crops out and foller it este to the big birch it aint fur off about 50 feat you wil find it shure Put in a blast or too i was on my last legs i knew the stuff was there but I had no money and grub is high all my Famly is ded it is all yourn you was the only friend I had on erth that is exept the boys who said i was crazy Why didnt you come in the spring i rote you six times I hope you aint sick as i am and the grub give out

Your frend

J W WATSON

Beneath this farewell letter were papers fully establishing Watson's homestead and mineral claims, and last of all was the postal card which Reade had written him when a boy. His eyes were moist and his lip trembled when he laid aside the packet.

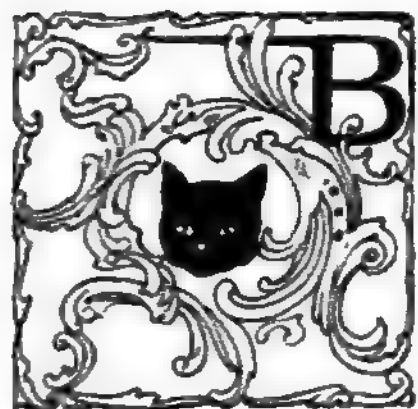
Have you seen the Watson Hospital, on a high, breezy bluff, overlooking the dancing waters of Lake Superior? Yes, it cost a large sum. George A. Reade paid the bills, but he says he did it with John W. Watson's money. Perhaps you also noticed the Old Miners' Home, near by? That was paid for, too, with Watson's money, or, at least, with the proceeds of the iron ore he found and guarded so faithfully. Reade declares he only worked the vein when it was too late to do Watson any good.

Reade's eldest boy is named Watson — John Watson Reade. They call him Watson for short. But George A. Reade will not tolerate a postal card, in his home, at his office, or about his business in any way, and it gives him a heartache when he sees one.



The Gratitude of Mrs. Hatch.*

BY G. B. DUNHAM.



BEN MORRISON, the big bluffer of the sheriff's office, with his understudy, the junior deputy, was sent out into the country, a matter of fifty miles or so, to make an arrest on an indictment for rustling cattle. He brought in his man alive, but unconscious, pretty well bruised, and with a dent in his occiput about the size and shape of the butt of the deputy's revolver.

Now, the sheriff's office had been down on its luck all summer, and it was of a piece with the rest that the Grand Jury, just then in annual session, instead of commending the success of Morrison, should listen instead to the prosecuting attorney and to a witness whom he hurried in from the back country, and find a true bill against Benjamin Morrison and William Judd, "that they did, upon the said 25th day of August, assault with intent to kill one Job Hatch, contrary to the law in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth aforesaid." The sole remaining deputy turned the key upon his associates, and for a time the sheriff's office was wofully short-handed, for the chief said, "If the public rather pay my men for keeping the jail full in that way, it's all the same to me, and less trouble, but I'll not appoint another man."

The incarcerated deputies were indignant, but not alarmed. They had, on their return, given a straightforward account of the circumstances attending the injury to Hatch, which statement they repeated without deviation at the trial. The sheriff said the thing was a dirty political trick of the county attorney. The attorney said he was sure of securing a conviction, and the prosecuting witness, pending the trial, said nothing. There were no dilatory motions from either side—in fact both urged a speedy

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trial — and the case came up within ten days after the indictment. During this interval the condition of the unfortunate man at the hospital was unchanged. He lay unconscious and without speech. His wife never left him but when she went before the jury, and her name appeared upon the indictment as prosecuting witness.

Morrison and Judd scarcely recognized the gravity of their situation until they were brought into court upon the day of trial. That it was to be no perfunctory prosecution was evidenced by the attendance of an eminent attorney, “imported,” as the defence phrased it, “to hamstring the jury.”

The jury being finally secured by the usual practice of carefully excluding everybody who knew anything about the case, I found myself one of the twelve men duly sworn to hear the evidence and true judgment give between the people and the prisoners at the bar. Then the visiting lawyer with the keen eye and the soft voice, whose habit it was to work jurors as the potter works his clay, gave us his opening statement.

“Gentlemen,” he said, “I should not be in this case at all but for a woman’s tears. A great wrong has been done. You cannot right it — no one can. What you can do, and what we expect you to do, is to punish the wrong-doers. We shall prove to you that the officers went to the house of this poor man, sought a quarrel with him, beat him unmercifully and brought him down here to die. We shall prove this by his wife, who saw it, whose presence did not deter these ruffians, whose tears at length prevailed on me to prosecute this suit.”

Replying to this opening, the defence said to the jury: “In a neighboring city a big brick block, some twelve stories high, bears the name of the opposing counsel. It was not built with woman’s tears. The twenty farms he owns were never bought with tears. He works for cash only, and in advance, and in this instance the cash comes from the coffers of a political committee. We shall show that the unfortunate man was hurt by an accident resulting from his own bad temper, and to which the defendants were not in any manner contributory.”

After the evidence of the attending surgeon, who declined to swear that the blow was or was not struck with a revolver, Mrs. Hatch was put on the stand. Her story was this: Only one man

came to her house — Morrison. He found Hatch at home, and, without showing his papers or stating his business, interfered with the ranchman's treatment of a vicious cow. Hatch was unarmed and no physical match for Morrison. After some altercation he ran toward the house; Morrison overtook him and felled him with a blow on the back of the head.

Upon cross-examination Mrs. Hatch contradicted herself in some minor matters and broke down. But she was solid as a rock on the main fact — that her husband was struck down by the officer. Throughout her testimony Morrison gave the closest attention, and, if I could read the expression on his face, it was one of doubt and surprise. He looked not like a man hearing the faithful account of his own misdeed, but as if he were hearing a shocking story for the first time. I made a mental note in Morrison's favor, but later, when he himself testified, I rubbed it out and went over to the woman's side.

The court will always caution jurors against coming to a conclusion before the evidence is in. But in this case I came to several, all of them erroneous, in the course of the trial.

The testimony of Morrison and Judd was as different as possible from that of Mrs. Hatch. According to their statement, which the ingenuity of opposing counsel tried in vain to break or shake, they had not reached Hatch's house when they met him in the road. In a country where every man knows and values a good horse they had at once noticed the fine mount of Hatch, and had engaged him in a conversation which ultimated in a horse race, with twenty dollars up, between Hatch and Judd.

"I'll give you a good beating," shouted Hatch, as Morrison started them down a strip of level highway. But his fine-looking horse was just a bit too fat to go up against Judd's wiry bronco, and he was beaten by a short length. Seeing which, Hatch hit his horse upon the head with the quirt, causing him to rear and fall upon his rider.

That was the whole story the men had to tell — succinct, complete, but not convincing. Over and over, on cross-examination it was repeated by both men like a well learned lesson. Looking and listening I make up my mind that this evidence was false; *ergo*, the woman's was true.

After the arguments of counsel and the verbal fireworks of the imported lawyer, who never made arguments, but always and everywhere stump-speeches, the learned judge charged us at great length to find the defendants guilty if they were guilty, and not guilty if they were innocent, and we were locked up.

In the jury room Judd, of course, was acquitted on the first ballot. The feeling was strong, but not unanimous, against Morrison. He had a friend or two who were stout in his defence. They urged that Morrison might kill a man on occasion — had done so perhaps — but never from behind.

There was much argument and no agreement until, late in the evening, contrary to every rule of law and in contempt of court, some new evidence was submitted to the jury. It came in the form of a note to me from my friend the doctor, shoved under the door of the jury room behind the bailiff's back. It read as follows:

GEORGE: — At noon to-day Dr. Marston and myself operated on Job Hatch. It was only one chance in a hundred that the man would stand it, but as he could not possibly recover without it, we took that chance, and lost. He died within an hour. After trepanning he spoke a number of words indicating excitement. The only connected sentence was, "I'll give you a good beating." I thought you ought to know.

WILL.

Those were exactly the words testified as used by Hatch at the alleged horse-race, and the note, thrown into the scale of conflicting opinion in the jury, turned the balance in favor of Morrison, and he also was acquitted.

In another part of the West, years later, I made a long wagon journey with Morrison. I came to know his brave nature well, and proved his worth on many occasions. One night, under the summer stars, when the camp-fires burned low, I said to him without prelude,

"Ben, who killed Job Hatch?"

After a silence, "His wife."

"Are you sure?"

"I saw it. I went out there to arrest him and he was beating his wife. As I rode up she grabbed the gun from his holster and hit him. It was a chance blow, but the woman was frenzied and it felled him like an ox. He got about what he deserved and I

told the woman that I'd see her through. Of course, any jury would have cleared her on the facts, but she had been a girl well connected and said she'd rather die than have her people know. So I did what I did."

"But," I cried, "what was the occasion for her bad faith? Why did she try to fasten the deed on you?"

After another pause and the lighting of another pipe Ben replied slowly: "I don't know. I have tried to follow a good many trails into a woman's mind, but they are always blind trails. They lead nowhere. My guess is that she tried to do me up because I went there to arrest her husband for a thief. No sooner was he gone than she began to idealize him, and she was as fierce against me in his defence as she had been against him in her own. That's my guess, but all I absolutely know is that she seemed very grateful to me for my promise to shield her. And two days after I got the worst jolt of my life when I was locked up to answer her charges."

"You must have known before the trial came on," said I, "what the woman meant to testify. Why not then have given the court the facts? Why did you stand by her in spite of herself?"

No answer.

I wanted to get from him an avowal that he thought he had done a brave and generous thing.

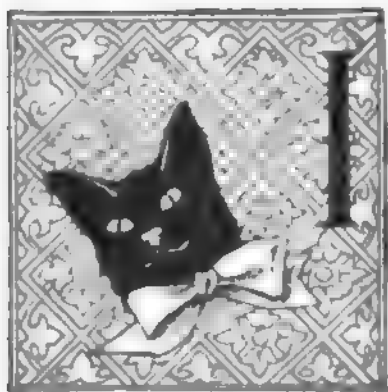
"Supposing you had been convicted on her testimony?" I persisted.

But Morrison only said quietly, "Then you would be making this journey alone."



Ely's Automatic Housemaid.*

BY ELIZABETH W. BELLAMY.



IN order for a man to have faith in such an invention, he would have to know Harrison Ely. For Harrison Ely was a genius. I had known him in college, a man amazingly dull in Latin and Greek and even in English, but with ideas of his own that could not be expressed in language. His bent was purely mechanical, and found expression in innumerable ingenious contrivances to facilitate the study to which he had no inclination. His self-acting lexicon-holder was a matter of admiring wonder to his classmates, but it did not serve to increase the tenacity of his mental grasp upon the contents of the volume, and so did little to recommend him to the faculty. And his self-feeding safety student-lamp admirably illuminated everything for him save the true and only path to an honorable degree.

It had been years since I had seen him or thought of him, but the memory is tenacious of small things, and the big yellow envelope which I found one morning awaiting me upon my breakfast-table brought his eccentric personality back to me with a rush. It was addressed to me in the Archimedean script always so characteristic of him, combining, as it seemed to do, the principles of the screw and of the inclined plane, and in its superscription Harrison Ely stood unmistakably revealed.

It was the first morning of a new cook, the latest potentate of a dynasty of ten who had briefly ruled in turn over our kitchen and ourselves during the preceding three months, and successively abdicated in favor of one another under the compelling influences of popular clamor, and in the face of such a political crisis my classmate's letter failed to receive immediate attention. Unfortunately but not unexpectedly the latest occupant of our

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culinary throne began her reign with no conspicuous reforms, and we received in gloomy silence her preliminary enactments in the way of greasy omelette and turbid and flavorless coffee, the yellow screed of Harrison Ely looking on the while with bilious sympathy as it leaned unopened against the water-bottle beside me.

As I drained the last medicinal drop of coffee my eye fell upon it, and needing a vicarious outlet for my feelings toward the cook, I seized it and tore it viciously open. It contained a letter from my classmate and half a dozen printed circulars. I spread open the former, and my eye fastened at once upon this sympathetic exordium :

“Doubtless, my dear friend, you have known what discomfort it is to be at the mercy of incompetent domestics —.”

But my attention was distracted at this point by one of the circulars, which displayed an array of startling, cheering, alluring words, followed by plentiful exclamation points, that, like a bunch of keys, opened to my enraptured vision the gates of a terrestrial Paradise, where Bridgets should be no more, and where ill-cooked meals should become a mechanical impossibility. The boon we had been sighing for now presented itself for my acceptance, an accomplished fact. Harrison Ely had invented “An Automatic Household Beneficent Genius.—A Practical Realization of the Fabled Familiar of the Middle Ages.” So the circular set forth.

Returning to the letter, I read that Harrison Ely, having exhausted his means in working out his invention, was unable to manufacture his “machine” in quantity as yet; but that he had just two on hand which he would sell in order to raise some ready money. He hoped that I would buy one of his automatons, and aid him to sell the other.

Never did a request come at a more propitious moment. I had always entertained a kindness for Harrison Ely, and now such was my disgust at the incompetence of Bridget and Juliana and their predecessors that I was eager to stake the price of a “Household Beneficent Genius” on the success of my friend’s invention.

So, having grasped the purport of the circulars and letter, I broke forth to my wife :

“My dear, you’ve heard me speak of Harrison Ely —”

"That man who is always so near doing something great, and never *has* done anything?" said she.

"He has done it at last!" I declared. "Harrison Ely is one of the greatest geniuses the world has ever seen. He has invented an 'Automatic-Electric Machine-Servant.'"

My wife said, "Oh!"

There was not an atom of enthusiasm in that "Oh!" but I was not to be daunted.

"I am ready," I resumed, "to invest my bottom dollar in *two* of Harrison Ely's machine-servants."

Her eyes were fixed upon me as if they would read my very soul. "What do they cost?" she mildly asked.

"In comparison with the benefits to be derived, little enough. Listen!" I seized a circular at random, and began to read:

"The Automatic Household Genius, a veritable Domestic Fairy, swift, silent, sure; a Permanent, Inalienable, First-class Servant, warranted to give Satisfaction."

"Ah!" said my wife; and the enthusiasm that was lacking in the "Oh!" made itself eloquent in that "Ah!" "What is the price?" she asked again.

"The price is all right, and we are going to try the experiment."

"Are we though?" said she, between doubt and desire.

"Most assuredly; it will be a saving in the end. I shall write to Harrison Ely this very night."

The return mail brought me a reply stating that two Electric-Automatic Household Beneficent Geniuses had been shipped me by express. The letter enclosed a pamphlet that gave a more particular account of the E. A. H. B. G. than the circulars contained. My friend's invention was shaped in the likeness of the human figure, with body, head, arms, legs, hands and feet. It was clad in waterproof cloth, with a hood of the same to protect the head, and was shod with felt. The trunk contained the wheels and springs, and in the head was fixed the electric battery. The face, of bisque, was described as possessing "a very natural and pleasing expression."

Just at dusk an oblong box arrived by express and was duly delivered in our hall, but at my wife's urgent entreaty I consented not to unpack the machines until next day.

"If we should not get the knack of managing them, they might give us trouble," said this wise wife of mine.

I agreed to this, and having sent away Bridget with a week's wages, to the satisfaction of all parties, we went to bed in high hopes.

Early next morning we were astir.

"My dear," I said, "do not give yourself the least concern about breakfast; I am determined that Harrison's invention shall have fair play."

"Very well," my wife assented; but she prudently administered bread and butter to her offspring.

I opened the oblong box, where lay the automatons side by side, their hands placidly folded upon their waterproof breasts, and their eyes looking placidly expectant from under their waterproof hoods.

I confess the sight gave me a shock. Anna Maria turned pale; the children hid their faces in her skirts.

"Once out of the box," I said to myself, "and the horror will be over."

The machines stood on their feet admirably, but the horror was not materially lessened by this change of position. However, I assumed a bold front, and said, jocosely:

"Now, which is Bridget, and which is Juliana—which the cook, and which the housemaid?"

This distinction was made clear by dial-plates and indicators, set conspicuously between the shoulders, an opening being cut in the waterproof for that purpose. The housemaid's dial-plate was stamped around the circumference with the words: Bed, Broom, Duster, Door-bell, Dining-room Service, Parlor Service, etc. In like manner, the cook's dial-plate bore the words that pertained to her department. I gave myself first to "setting" the housemaid, as being the simpler of the two.

"Now, my dear," said I, confidently, "we shall see how *this* Juliana can make the beds."

I proceeded, according to the pamphlet's directions, to point the indicator to the word "Bed." Next, as there were three beds to be made, I pushed in three of the five little red points surrounding the word. Then I set the "clock" connected with the indica-

tor, for a thirty minutes' job, thinking it might take about ten minutes to a bed. I did not consult my wife, for women do not understand machinery, and any suggestion of hesitancy on my part would have demoralized her.

The last thing to be done was to connect the indicator with the battery, a simple enough performance in itself, but the pamphlet of directions gave a repeated and red-lettered "CAUTION," never to interfere with the machine while it was at work! I therefore issued the command, "Non-combatants to the rear!" and was promptly obeyed.

What happened next I do not pretend to account for. By what subtle and mysterious action of electricity, by what unerring affinity, working through a marvellous mechanism, that Electric-Automatic Household Beneficent Genius, whom — or which, for short — we called Juliana, sought its appropriate task, is the inventor's secret. I don't undertake to explain, I merely narrate. With a "click" the connection was made, and the new Juliana *went up-stairs* at a brisk and business-like pace.

We followed in breathless amazement. In less than five minutes, bed number one was made, and in a twinkling the second was taken in hand, and number three also was fairly accomplished, long before the allotted thirty minutes had expired. By this time, familiarity had somewhat dulled that awe and wonder with which we had gaped upon the first performance, and I beheld a smile of hopeful satisfaction on my wife's anxious countenance.

Our youngest, a boy aged three, was quick to feel the genial influence of this smile, and encouraged thereby, he bounced into the middle of the first bed. Hardly had he alighted there, when our automaton, having finished making the third bed, returned to her first job, and, before we could imagine mischief, the mattresses were jerked about, and the child was tumbled, headforemost on the floor!

Had the flesh-and-blood Juliana been guilty of such an act, she should have been dismissed on the spot; but, as it was, no one of us ventured so much as a remonstrance. My wife lifted the screaming child, and the imperturbable machine went on to re-adjust the bed with mechanical exactitude.

At this point a wild shout of mingled exultation, amazement and

terror arose from below, and we hastened down-stairs to find our son John hugging his elbows and capering frantically in front of the kitchen-door, where the electric cook was stirring empty nothing in a pan, with a zeal worthy a dozen eggs.

My eldest hopeful, impelled by that spirit of enterprise and audacity characteristic of nine-year-old boys, had ventured to experiment with the kitchen automaton, and by sheer accident had effected a working connection between the battery and the indicator, and the machine, in "going off," had given the boy a blow that made him feel, as he expressed it, "like a funny-bone all over."

"And served you right!" cried I. The thing was set for an hour and a half of work, according to the showing of the dial-plate, and no chance to stop it before I must leave for my office. Had the materials been supplied, we might have had breakfast; but, remembering the red-lettered "CAUTION," we dared not supply materials while that indefatigable spoon was gyrating in the empty pan. For my distraction, Kitty, my daughter of seven years, now called to me from up-stairs:

"Papa, you *better* come, quick! *It's a-tearin' up these beds!*"

"My dear," I sighed, "there's no way to stop it. We'll have to wait for the works to run down. I must call Harrison's attention to this defect. He ought to provide some sort of brake."

We went up-stairs again. The B. G. Juliana stood beside the bed which she had just torn up for the sixth or seventh time, when suddenly she became, so to speak, paralyzed; her arms, in the act of spreading the sheets, dropped by her sides, her back stiffened, and she stood absolutely motionless, leaving her job unfinished — the B. G. would move no more until duly "set" again.

I now discovered that I was hungry. "If that Fiend in the kitchen were only at work about something substantial, instead of whipping the air into imaginary omelettes!" I groaned.

"Never mind," said my wife; "I've a pot of coffee on the kerosene stove."

Bless her! She was worth a thousand Beneficent Geniuses, and so I told her.

I did not return until late, but I was in good spirits, and I greeted my wife gayly:

"Well, how do they work?"

"*Like fiends!*" my usually placid helpmeet replied, so vehemently that I was alarmed. "They flagged at first," she proceeded, excitedly, "and I oiled them, which *I* am not going to do, ever again. According to the directions, I poured the oil down their throats. It was horrible! They seemed to me to *drink it greedily.*"

"Nonsense! That's your imagination."

"Very well," said Anna Maria. "You can do the oiling in future. They took a good deal this morning; it wasn't easy to stop pouring it down. And they worked — *obstreperously.* That Fiend in the kitchen has cooked all the provisions I am going to supply *this* day, but still she goes on, and it's no use to say a word."

"Don't be absurd," I remonstrated. "The thing is only a machine."

"I'm not so sure about that!" she retorted. "As for the other one — I set it sweeping, and it is sweeping still!"

We ate the dinner prepared by the kitchen Fiend, and really, I was tempted to compliment the cook in a set speech, but recollected myself in time to spare Anna Maria the triumph of saying, "I told you so!"

Now, that John of mine, still in pursuit of knowledge, had spent the day studying Harrison Ely's pamphlet, and he learned that the machines could be set, like an alarm-clock, for any given hour. Therefore, as soon as the Juliana had collapsed over a pile of dust in the middle of the hall, John, unknown to us, set her indicator to the broom-handle for seven o'clock the following morning. When the Fiend in the kitchen ran down, leaving everything in confusion, my much-tried wife persuaded me to give my exclusive attention to that machine, and the Juliana was put safely in a corner. Thus it happened that John's interference escaped detection. I set Bridget's indicator for kitchen-cleaning at seven-thirty the next morning.

"When we understand them better," I said to my wife, "we will set their morning tasks for an earlier hour, but we won't put it too early now, since we must first learn their ways."

"That's the trouble with all new servants," said Anna Maria.

The next morning at seven-thirty, precisely, we were awakened by a commotion in the kitchen.

"By George Washington!" I exclaimed. "The Thing's on time!"

I needed no urging to make me forsake my pillow, but Anna Maria was ahead of me.

"Now, my dear, don't get excited," I exhorted, but in vain.

"Don't you hear?" she whispered, in terror. "*The other one!* — swe — eep — ing!" And she darted from the room.

I paused to listen, and heard the patter of three pairs of little bare feet across the hall up-stairs. The children were following their mother. The next sound I heard was like the dragging of a rug along the floor. I recognized this peculiar sound as the footsteps of the B. G. Then came a dull thud, mingled with a shout from Johnnie, a scream from my wife, and the terrified cries of the two younger children. I rushed out just in time to see John, in his night-clothes, with his hair on end, tear down-stairs like a streak of lightning. My little Kitty and the three-year-old baby stood clasped in each other's arms at the head of the stairs, sobbing in terror, and, half-way down, was my wife, leaning over the railing, with ashen face and rigid body, her fascinated gaze fixed upon a dark and struggling mass in the hall below.

John, when he reached the bottom of the stairs, began capering like a goat gone mad, digging the floor with his bare heels, clapping his hands with an awful glee, and shouting:

"Bet your bottom dollar on the one that whips!"

The Juliana and the Bridget were fighting for the broom!

I comprehended the situation intuitively. The kitchen-cleaning, for which the Fiend had been "set," had reached a point that demanded the broom, and that subtle, attractive affinity, which my friend's genius had known how to produce, but had not learned to regulate, impelled the unerring automaton towards the only broom in the house, which was now in the hands of its fellow-automaton, and a struggle was inevitable. What I could not understand — Johnnie having kept his own counsel — was this uncontrollable sweeping impulse that possessed the Juliana.

However, this was no time for investigating the exact cause of the terrific row now going on in our front hall. The Beneficent Geniuses had each a firm grip of the broom-handle, and they might have performed the sweeping very amicably together, could

they but have agreed as to the field of labor, but their conflicting tendencies on this point brought about a rotary motion that sent them spinning around the hall, and kept them alternately cracking each other's head with a violence that ought to have drawn blood. Considering their life-likeness, we should hardly have thought it strange if blood *had* flowed, and it would have been a relief had the combatants but called each other names, so much did their dumbness intensify the horror of a struggle, in the midst of which the waterproof hoods fell off, revealing their startlingly human countenances, not distorted by angry passions, but resolute, inexorable, calm, as though each was sustained in the contest by a lofty sense of duty.

"They're alive! Kill 'em! Kill 'em, quick!" shrieked my wife, as the gyrating couple moved towards the stair-case.

"Let 'em alone," said Johnnie — his sporting blood, which he inherits from his father, thoroughly roused — dancing about the automatic pugilists in delight, and alternately encouraging the one or the other to increased efforts.

Thus the fight went on with appalling energy and reckless courage on both sides, my wife wringing her hands upon the stair-case, our infants wailing in terror upon the landing above, and I wavering between an honest desire to see fair play and an apprehensive dread of consequences which was not unjustified.

In one of their frantic gyrations the figures struck the hat-rack and promptly converted it into a mass of splinters. In a minute more they became involved with a rubber plant — the pride of my wife's heart — and distributed it impartially all over the premises. From this they caromed against the front door, wrecking both its stained-glass panes, and then down the length of the hall they sped again, fighting fiercely and dealing one another's imperturbable countenances ringing blows with the disputed broom.

We became aware through Johnnie's excited comments, that Juliana had lost an ear in the fray, and presently it was discernible that a fractured nose had somewhat modified the set geniality of expression that had distinguished Bridget's face in its prime.

How this fierce and equal combat would have culminated if further prolonged no one but Harrison Ely can conjecture, but it came to an abrupt termination as the parlor clock chimed eight,

the hour when the two automatons should have completed their appointed tasks.

Though quite late at my office that morning, I wired Ely before attending to business. Long-haired, gaunt and haggard, but cheerful as ever, he arrived next day, on fire with enthusiasm. He could hardly be persuaded to refresh himself with a cup of coffee before he took his two recalcitrant Geniuses in hand. It was curious to see him examine each machine, much as a physician would examine a patient. Finally his brow cleared, he gave a little puff of satisfaction, and exclaimed:

"Why, man alive, there's nothing the matter—not a thing! What you consider a defect is really a merit—merely a surplus of mental energy. They've had too big a dose of oil. Few housekeepers have any idea about proper lubrication," and he emitted another little snort, at which my wife colored guiltily.

"I see just what's wanted," he resumed. "The will-power generated and not immediately expended becomes cumulative and gets beyond control. I'll introduce a little compensator, to take up the excess and regulate the flow. Then a child can operate them."

It was now Johnnie's turn to blush.

"Ship 'em right back to the factory, and we'll have 'em all right in a few days. I see where the mechanism can be greatly improved, and when you get 'em again I know you'll never consent to part with 'em!"

.

That was four months ago. The "Domestic Fairies" have not yet been returned from Harrison's laboratory, but I am confidently looking for the familiar oblong packing case, and expect any day to see in the papers the prospectus of the syndicate which Ely informs me is being "promoted" to manufacture his automatic housemaid.



The Curse of Zulma Rebya.*

BY RHETA CHILDE DORR.



IN the latter half of the thirties, at the court of Louis Philippe, the democratic atmosphere brought by the "Citizen King" from his American sojourn was voted by old courtiers — especially the ladies — a very unsatisfactory substitute for the manners that went out when Charles X. departed into exile and the last traditions of the old régime went with him.

Sometimes there were fêtes, which bad management more often than not converted into fiascos — in the opinion of the Faubourg Saint Germain — but there were those whom they amused and who could laugh with as well as at the fatuous monarch. Among them was Lady Florence Brooke, whose father — one of the most efficient statesmen of his day in England — was then in Paris on an important and delicate mission.

"I vow, cousin," she said, the morning after one of these incongruous gatherings, to Capt. Arbuthnot, a dashing young attaché, "I am in love with His Majesty. He is the only man in Paris who makes me laugh."

"The King is rather quaint at times," agreed the captain. "But I hope, for all that, dear Florence, you will not be tempted to laugh audibly."

"Never fear, I know why my father was sent here, and it will not be my fault if his mission fails."

"I am sorry you are so bored, my cousin," resumed the young Englishman, "but there are some amusing people in society besides the King. And that reminds me of some one who is anxious to be presented to you — none other than the renowned Count Abbas."

"And who is he — an Arab?"

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“An Egyptian — or, rather, a pure-blooded Turk. He is one of those whom old Mehemet Ali chose in carrying out his peculiarly Oriental scheme for the civilization of Egypt. He selected three hundred youths from good families, many of them from the very highest nobility, and sent them here to Europe, to be educated as engineers, naval officers, physicians and mechanics. When they came back he had them all clapped into prison, and there they were obliged to stop until they had translated their textbooks into Arabic. Then some of them were released, but the majority were turned into schoolmasters. Awful degradation to an Oriental, you know.

“Well, this chap, this Abbas — he has a jolly lot of names and titles, but we call him simply Count Abbas — was of the famous three hundred. He somehow got wind of the scheme, and very sensibly failed to return with the others. So he’s a Parisian now, and upon my word he isn’t a bad one. He’s immensely rich, as clever as Lucifer, and no end popular at the clubs. May I present him? He might interest you.”

“I wish Mehemet Ali were here!” cried Lady Florence. “I should adore him. But in his default I think the count may do.”

Capt. Arbuthnot took his leave, well pleased to have been a little useful to his fair kinswoman. He hoped, some day, when he should inherit his title, to become indispensable to her.

He was not the only man who aspired to so much distinction, for Lady Florence Brooke was a very beautiful woman. She was also very brilliant, a combination not frequently encountered. In conclusion, she was selfish, which is commoner.

It ought to be said, in her behalf, that every formative influence, every detail of her education, had been such as to cultivate selfishness in even less promising soil. From childhood she had been encouraged to believe herself infinitely above others of her sex, both in beauty and intellect. Flattered, deferred to, consulted and confided in by her father and his friends, she had early attained an elevation of self-esteem which was far too lofty to be styled mere vanity.

After his first disappointment that he had a daughter instead of a son, her father resolved to make the motherless girl what he conceived to be a perfect woman.

In his own opinion — and in hers — he had been completely successful. She knew mathematics like a Senior Wrangler, Latin like a cardinal, and her beautiful lips rolled honeyed Greek like a reincarnated Helen.

By the time she entered society she was quite satisfied that she was superior, by virtue of personality, to any and all rank.

She was now six-and-twenty, and unmarried, despite offers.

“The thing is simply this, Papa,” explained the young woman, “I intend to become a model for wives as soon as the man appears whom I thoroughly respect, and who never bores me. As yet I have not found the two qualifications embodied in one individual.”

Haply this was repeated to Capt. Arbuthnot. At all events the day after he had presented Count Abbas, the Egyptian approached him and said: “My dear Arbuthnot, if you will tell me how to please your *houri* of a cousin, I promise to smuggle you into the paradise of true believers, hereafter!”

“Why, my dear chap,” answered the attaché seriously, “nothing is easier. In the first place you must amuse her! And if you can’t do that, impress her! If you should succeed in doing both — well, in that case you would certainly prove yourself an all-around man.”

Count Abbas did not, at first, succeed in doing either. Lady Florence was disappointed to find him so little out of the common. His complexion was no swarthier than many a Frenchman’s, although his hair and beard were of a peculiar blue-black seldom seen in Europe, and he had the soft, dull eyes of an Oriental. For the rest, he was a fair type of the ordinary young Parisian dandy of the day.

Occasionally there crept into his speech an accent, a figure, an allusion, an evasive essence, that was distinctly alien, and he soon, divining that these subtle differences were pleasing to her, began to affect them. After that she was more gracious, and before long a certain intimacy was established between them. She allowed him to say to her — in his Oriental fashion — things which from others would have been coldly received. She was not above a flirtation, but love-making offended her taste.

This woman, with the brain of a man, possessed the rudimentary emotional nature of a child. She had, in place of affections, pas-

sions, instincts, merely a devouring curiosity, a love of change, a desire for sensation.

Because he fed this restless flame Count Abbas charmed her. The intensity of his feeling for her, if she noticed it at all, caused her no concern. She did not wish to inflict suffering, but no impulse to prevent it had ever entered her mind.

Lady Florence's favorite jewels were rubies, and of these the count had some rarely beautiful specimens. When she spoke one day of the enduring nature of such gems he answered with a strange smile :

"My rubies are older than I, to be sure, but they will not necessarily endure longer."

She laughed delightedly. "So you have the elixir of life!"

"I did not say so. Truly, I am no seer. But I have a certain unique advantage over other men. I know the exact spot on earth where my death must occur! Of course I shall never visit that place as long as I desire to live. It follows that I am immortal, if I choose to be."

"And how, pray, did you come into this valuable intelligence?"

"It is an inheritance. I had it from my father's lips, as he had it in secret from his father, whose father confided it to him."

"And yet — they died!"

"Yes, they died. But I need not die. Will you condescend to hear the tale?"

"Continue."

The young man leaned far back into the red cushions of his chair, and as he did so, a beam of the late afternoon sun caught the rubies in his hand, quickening them into flame. His gaze rested on them in silence, and a sudden melancholy came into his handsome, sallow face. His eyes glowed dully, like banked fires. At this moment he was not in the least Parisian. Lady Florence regarded him with admiration, as she would have admired a rare vase, or a marble, or an edition — anything perfect of its kind. As the sunbeam passed, his melancholy also passed, and he spoke in his ordinary light-hearted tone.

"The story reflects such small credit on one of my ancestors that family pride ought to prevent my telling it. But what is the

sin of ingratitude weighed against the infinite happiness of furnishing you entertainment? Know then, O my lady, that when your slave's great-grandfather was little more than a stripling, he was sent on an important mission to the city of Damascus. Having arrived, he was hastening to the house of the dignitary to whom his letters were addressed, when he was abruptly halted by a great crowd of people, which completely filled the narrow street. It may have been a fire, or a religious riot; at all events, there was so much excitement that my great-grandsire wasted no time in taking refuge in a narrow alley between two tall houses hard by.

“Three other persons had preceded them thither; two women seated on asses, attended by an immense black eunuch. One of the women was old, evidently a duenna. The other my impressionable ancestor easily surmised to be young and beautiful. Both of them were frightened out of their senses. It was obviously the part of a brave young man to reassure them. The blockade lasted a long time. What would you have? The end of it all — or the beginning of it all, rather — was a visit the next day from the old woman, an appointment, a disguise, a meeting! Indeed lady, these things happen in the East as frequently as in the West.

“The fair one proved to be the daughter of a Jewish merchant. She was motherless, and somewhat neglected. Tradition preserves that she was, as it were, a willow wand for grace and elegance, and her face was as the moon when it rises on the fourteenth night. At the first dropping of her veil my ancestor's wit was confounded and his reason was unsettled. They conversed together, timidly at first, afterwards with boldness.

“In that country women are not coquettes. They are children in mind and heart, and their passions are as the winds of the desert. Thus Zulma Rebya awoke to love as from a deep sleep.

“I will not attempt to give you the details of the affair. In the first place, I do not know them — I only know that the end came very suddenly. My great-grandsire received a summons from home, and was obliged to go with hardly an adieu. In the East no man marries without his parents' consent, and even if he had wished to wed his Jewish lady-love it would never have been

permitted. So he left Damascus alone. The damsel was, as usual, unreasonable. What says your poet? 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.'

"As my great-grandsire set forth on his journey he was obliged to pass the spot where he had seen her first, and behold, the old woman was waiting for him with a letter in her hand. As he took the writing a chill like that of the tomb came over him. And no wonder! For it contained no tender farewell, but a terrible and a prophetic curse.

"'Thou goest out from the gates of the city where thou didst promise to abide until death found thee within. That promise shalt thou still keep. Here shalt thou die, and never shalt thou die save only here. Thou and thy son and thy son's sons, as long as they have sons. By the virtue of my mother.'

"My ancestor journeyed on and in due season came to his own country, where he lived and completed his manhood and married wives after the custom of our holy religion. Zulma Rebya became as a shadow and her bitter words were, in time, almost forgotten. Almost, but not completely; for when, twenty-five years later, affairs involving a large inheritance made it imperative for one of the family to go to Damascus, my great-grandfather refused to part with his sons. He did not believe very strongly in curses, but if there was a risk he preferred to take it on himself.

"His business was soon accomplished, and in twenty-four hours he was ready to leave the fateful city. But leave he never did, for the cholera was abroad, and he perished in agony, and his ashes were scattered to the winds.

"His eldest son, my grandfather, rose to distinction in the service of the Sultan, who thought so highly of him that he was often entrusted with delicate matters of diplomacy in foreign lands. It was finally decreed that one of the embassies involved certain negotiation with a great Sheik of the Bedawin, whose desert home was near the city of our destiny. Whether or not my grandfather hesitated to go I cannot say, but it is probable that he accepted his mission as a soldier his post at the enemy's front; a duty to be done, even to the death.

"The conference with the Bedawi lasted several days, nearly a week, and resulted to the Sultan's advantage. But other lips than

the ambassador's brought back the tidings. Himself was killed in a street brawl at the very gates of the city.

"When my father, then nearly twenty-one, heard of his father's murder in Damascus, the curse of Zulma Rebya fell heavy on his soul. He was a gloomy man — I think I never heard his laughter — but he was a brave man as well, and his life was as active and as useful as though no dead woman's hand pointed him to a shameful doom. He was Mehemet Ali's nearest friend, and when that great man conquered Egypt, he made my father a marshal of his army.

"In 1830, as you have heard, I was sent with other youths, to Europe; but, unlike the others, I did not return. My father, friend of Mehemet, still had no desire to see his own son made into a pedagogue by the tyrant, and I was warned in time. If I had been at home — " he paused, and a touch of genuine emotion broke his voice.

"What then?" cried Lady Florence, with impatience.

"If I had been at home my father should not have gone."

"He went!"

"Second in command to Ibrahim, whose army captured Damascus in '34. Many perished in that bloody struggle, and among the first — my father."

Lady Florence was as pale as death.

"And do you really believe in it?" she asked breathlessly.

The young man shrugged his shoulders.

She, recovering herself, began to laugh. "Tell me, then, my dear Count, how long do you intend to live? If I remember, none of your few fellow-immortals found an unending existence an actual boon. At what age will you elect that famous journey to Damascus?"

"Ah, Lady Florence," answered the Oriental, rising and coming quickly to her. "A short time since I fancied that I should never go, but now I know that I desire to live only as long as you do. And I shall start to-morrow unless you tell me that I may spend every day of the future near to you — nearer than any other, man or woman."

She stood up in amazement, and motioned him back with an authoritative hand.

“Oh do not reply at once,” he cried passionately. “O Moon of Paradise, listen a moment longer! You are used to be worshipped, but not by a man of my race. You have heard words of love, but not in the golden language which I shall teach you. If I am your husband, you will say that in Europe men do not know how to love at all: You will declare that no other woman in the world is a wife.”

In spite of herself, Lady Florence was shaken by his stormy ardor. Her cold breast even caught a faint reflective glow. She sank into her chair trembling, and he fell down beside her, possessing her hands with his lips.

“My princess! You will? You will?”

“But you —” she stammered. “A Turk — a Mohammedan —”

“I am not a Turk, I am not a Mohammedan. I have no country, no religion, if any on the earth offend you. Your nation is mine, and the room that holds you is the mosque where I will go to prayer, for the rest of our days.”

“My father will never consent.”

Why was it impossible for her to dismiss the man outright?

“I have already satisfied your father that I am a suitable alliance. He leaves you perfectly free to accept me if you choose.”

“I do not wish to marry yet.”

“Ah, but when you do! It is all I ask, that you consent to marry me when you are ready.”

“But, good heavens! I am not even ready to do that,” she cried desperately.

“At least you do not reject me. By Allah, I will not go to Damascus yet!”

And every day afterwards when he left her, he murmured over her hand: “O my lady, do I journey to Damascus to-morrow?”

And every day the question was asked more ardently, more confidently, for she was never quite able to say “go!”

She had not the remotest intention of accepting him. He did not fulfil the first condition which she had assured her father was necessary to her choice, and she foresaw that, as her lover, he would soon cease to devote himself to merely amusing her.

Then why did she not dismiss him? Not because she feared to cause his death. Lady Florence was not superstitious. The

plain truth is that he overbore her with his personality ; he was so near to being her master that she was afraid of him.

The situation soon became intolerable. She, hitherto so proud, so insolent in her strength of mind, stooped now to weakly pondering schemes for getting rid of him, and she believed she had hit upon that which would compel him to abandon his suit. She knew that, in the Oriental character, superstition, dread of curses, belief in the evil eye, is so ingrained as to be structural. She resolved to make this fact her weapon.

Listening one afternoon to his fervid eloquence, she said softly, "I beg of you a little time for reflection. All the world is on its way to Rome for the Carnival. Go you too, and the very hour when you return you shall have your answer."

He drew a long breath, his black eyes devouring her passionately. Then he bowed to the ground, whispered "I hear and obey," and was gone.

The answer was handed Count Abbas two weeks later, to the day. Its first effect was to transform him in appearance into a maniac. Locked in his chamber, he rushed blindly up and down until, utterly exhausted, he fell on the divan, clenched his hands above his head, and sobbed like a hurt animal. At length, his rage spent, he sat up very pale and calm.

"One of them lived a week," he muttered. "If I live a week, I shall have time for love, and for revenge also. If I live only a day, as the first one did—or a few hours, or one hour—she is not worth it, but my desire for her is worth it. Perhaps I will strangle her at the end. I ought to do it."

He opened the door and said to his Egyptian servant: "Ismail, put things together for a sea voyage."

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On the flat roof of the British consulate in Damascus Lady Florence sat, peacefully enjoying the divine love story of the nightingale. She was thinking of the European letters, due probably on the morrow. Her father's would be furious, but she could always pacify him. If Abbas wrote at all, his letter would be unpleasant, but then—she was not obliged to read it. When she returned to Paris, she felt confident, the count would be abroad. She listened for another hour to the nightingale, chatted

with the consul and his wife, a cousin of her mother, and went down to her placid pillow.

The foreign post arrived the next day and so did Count Abbas.

The interview between them was very brief. In the cold pallor, the averted eye, the wordless greeting of the woman who entered the room to receive him, he read the truth before anything was spoken.

"I did not intend this," she said. "I did not dream that it would happen. You would not let me refuse you, and I believed that I could elude you by coming here. It was a stupid plan, and I think very badly of myself. I hope you will forgive me, some day."

She waited for him to speak, and his lips moved, but no syllable escaped them. He looked at her with a hollow stare. His hat fell noisily to the floor; he picked it up, brushed it mechanically, and resumed his expressionless gaze.

Again she broke the painful silence :

"I am sorry to hurt you. I did not intend to do so."

With an effort, he answered in a broken whisper: "Not your fault — the other one."

He turned and felt his way through the door into the street, where Ismail was waiting. Later, they sought a barren lodging, which was to be their abiding place till the end should come. Abbas did not notice the poverty of the place. It was good enough to die in, and from out its portals he never went — alive.

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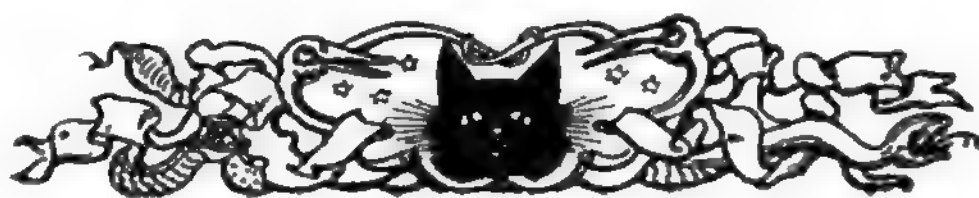
And did death find him?

Verily, no man escapes his fate.

And with what weapon was the blow dealt?

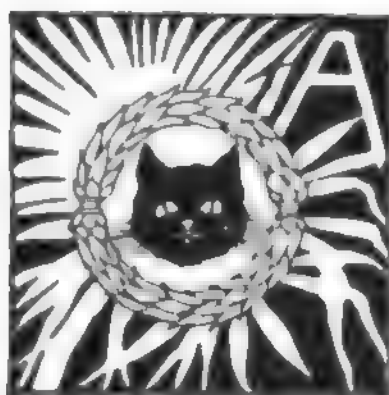
With that which is often reserved for the least worthy among men — old age.

He died at eighty-three — some years after Lady Florence Arbuthnot.



To Save a Stainless Name.*

BY CATHARINE YOUNG GLEN.



AMONG the older residents of Tarrytown, N. Y., there are doubtless some who can still point out with interest the large, old-fashioned house, with pleasant walks and cool tree-arches, once the home of the Wall Street broker, J. H. Ihlefield. Mr. Ihlefield's household was composed at that time — thirty years ago — of himself and wife, and a niece and nephew, twenty and twenty-one years of age, respectively, the children of his less fortunate brother, A. V. Ihlefield, then many years dead. Though the uncle had discharged wisely and faithfully the duties of a parent towards the orphans, the nephew — “Harry” as he was called — had disappointed his expectations, and instead of showing a disposition to settle down into a man of affairs, seemed to regard all forms of business with aversion. The niece, Margaret, on the other hand, was not only a girl of unusual beauty and spirit, but of business aptitude as well.

During the month of August, 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Ihlefield and Miss Margaret were visiting at Saratoga Springs — having closed the house at Tarrytown — but the wild Harry declined to accompany them, declaring that Saratoga was too hot and dull, and that he should go yachting with friends.

The family had been but a short time at Saratoga when a matter of business arose which made it necessary for some one of the family to return to Tarrytown at once for its adjustment. At this juncture Mrs. Ihlefield, never strong, was taken suddenly and quite seriously ill. As it was thought unadvisable for her husband to be absent, Miss Margaret herself undertook the errand, leaving Saratoga by an early train.

“The papers will be signed by half-past four,” she said to her uncle, at parting, bidding him affectionate farewell, “and by five

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you may think of me as with the Wests." The Wests, with whom she intended to spend the night in Tarrytown, were near neighbors and friends.

The day was close and dusty, the journey tiresome. The accomplishment of her business proved a lengthier matter than Miss Margaret had thought. Certain details of it she was obliged, even then, to leave over until the following morning. It was not, therefore, until after six that she presented herself, a graceful but weary figure, at the door of her friends, the Wests. She was met there with disappointment and perplexity. The house was closed. They had gone, as she afterward learned, a week sooner than intended. The only other friend upon whose hospitality she would have cared, at this hour, unannounced and travel-stained, to intrude, was likewise out of town.

She was averse to going to a hotel. Owing to the nature of her errand, and purposing so early a return, she did not wish her presence generally known. She turned again slowly into the street, and for a moment stood irresolute.

Her own deserted home, half a block beyond, gleamed white through the veil of green, its windows catching the last faint rays of sun. A vision of comfort rose before her, enchanting to her tired soul — her own delightful room — and an impulse, growing into sudden, daring determination, gained possession of the girl. She felt for the latch-key in her bosom, and a few moments later was fitting it to the lock.

"No one will be the wiser!" she exulted, with a laugh and a little natural shiver, as she stepped into the silent hall. She was correct. So quietly did she move about, so carefully did she shield her light, that neither the officer who at intervals patrolled the avenue, nor the watchman whose duty it was to make a round of the grounds between the hours of ten and twelve received a hint of her presence.

After a hasty tour of the house, to convince herself that she was really alone — a trial, even to a spirit so courageous — she went at once to her own bedroom, and remained there through the evening, with her thoughts and her books.

This room, furnished with every luxury, had large front windows on the west, looking out upon the avenue ; opposite, at the eastern

end, a door opened into a dressing-room, which in its turn communicated with the hall. On the south, and facing the great Louis XIV. bed, which stood against the northern wall, was a pentagonal alcove, formed by a bay window. In the broad space between its windows stood a dresser, and an archway, richly curtained, half divided it from the room.

It was some time past twelve before Miss Margaret decided to retire. Placing her watch, together with the costly rings she always wore, in a little jewel-box, she shut it away in the drawer of a table between the avenue windows, and removed the key. This she put beneath her pillow.

Her preparations for the night concluded, she extinguished her light, and, folding back the screening blinds, lingered a moment at the open window in the alcove. The moon, now full, had turned the Ihlefield grounds into one great checkerboard, lying in vivid squares of light and shadow. It seemed to Margaret that she had never witnessed a more beautiful scene, nor known a silence so profound. The vines about the trellis, moon-enthralled, seemed made of trailing stone. She herself, standing in that splendor, in one of those dreams of billowy whiteness with which women of her position and wealth are wont to robe themselves for night, would have defied the cunning of the sculptor.

Every trace of fear, the result of her unusual situation, melted away before that majesty of repose. Leaving the alcove windows so that the full tide might pour into the bedroom, she calmly laid her head upon the pillow, and almost immediately slept.

She was to be rudely awakened.

About half-past two — though she had then no notion of time — she came to herself with a sudden and peculiar sense of danger, that something which rouses us, as at the touch of a cold hand, from the numbness of deep sleep into more than two-fold consciousness. Instinct then compels us to be still, every nerve strained, every faculty alert. By not so much as the moving of a finger did Margaret betray herself as she opened her eyes.

The room was still in a silvery glow, yet not as she had left it! She felt her heart to stop within her — then to beat with choking, suffocating violence. The sensation was unendurable. She sat upright, gasping, as for breath.

With the same motion the figure she saw in the alcove turned. A nickelled revolver, instantly levelled, sent its gleam across her face. There was an interval of absolute suspense. Every minutest detail of the tableau before her stamped itself upon her eyes. The man was tall and stalwart, the lower half of his face clean-shaven, the upper hidden by a burglar's mask. He spoke, still covering her. His voice was distinctly audible, yet so low that she seemed to feel, rather than to hear it.

"Make no alarm! Keep perfectly quiet! I mean you no harm if you will do so!" Then, as she neither stirred nor spoke — "Do you give me your word?"

She had no recollection of what she said. She supposed that she must have answered as he desired.

"Very well, then," the muffled voice continued, "I am going on with my work." Regarding her steadily, as though to assure himself, he lowered the weapon. "Remember! I shall hear you if you make the slightest sound!"

Sitting motionless, she could watch his every move. He began a rapid searching of the dresser. Drawer after drawer was turning out its contents, under his still, deft hand.

Her whirling thoughts took shape, revolved about one central, towering idea. She was alone! Alone in an empty house, amid a wilderness of shrubbery, on a deserted block, in the awful silence of night! At all cost, at all hazard, she must conceal the fact from this man, who evidently from his fear that she would give an alarm did not know it. Let him but pass beyond her door, and he would find it out! She reasoned that he had come by her alcove window, which she had left open. If by that window he could be induced to go, without looking farther! If she could only satisfy him with what she had!

With an effort she leaned forward. The figure was bending over the last drawer of the dresser. She spoke rapidly, hardly above a whisper, hearing her own words as though some one else were talking.

"One moment! Will you listen?" He was silent, but from her first syllable showed attention. "Your staying here is dangerous to you, and misery to me! You must not disturb the other rooms! If I make it worth your while will you go? Will you go at once?"

She waited, but he did not answer.

She dared again. Her breath was coming short and fast.

"If I make it worth your while?"

The dark man regarded her furtively. He was evidently unconvinced.

"What is it of value that you have?" he said.

She quivered, with the hope of winning.

"I have money and jewels! They will more than pay you! Will you let me rise, that I may show you? Oh, will you promise me that you will go?"

He stood, a tall, straight shadow, between the alcove curtains. Through the black blot upon his face she could feel him search her soul.

"I believe you are speaking the truth!" he said, at last. His voice was cool and deliberate. "Let me have them, and I will leave you!"

She threw a long, light cloak, lying by the bed, about her shoulders. "Stay where you are!" she commanded. "I shall not try to pass you!"

She took the little case from its hiding in the table drawer. As she stood, the deep baying of a dog came up to her, from far down the avenue. Something in that sound, so grewsome in the dead of night, doubled the horror of her loneliness with that unknown man. She wavered, battling with herself. Every element in her past had its influence in that short, decisive fight with fear.

She took a step toward him, and stopped, with eyes dilated. Then, all the pride of her family in her white-robed figure, she deliberately crossed the belt of moonlight to his side. Her face was pale and resolute, her head thrown back, her rich hair falling about her in a shimmering cloud. The jewels flashed within her hands. Never, perhaps, had that masked man beheld so radiant an apparition.

He started, and stepped backward, but his gaze falling on the stones, he uttered an exclamation of deep, unfeigned delight.

Still holding them, for he made no move to take them, she motioned to the window just behind him.

"I have kept my word!" she said, with simple dignity. "I believe that you will now keep yours!"

Taking the case she extended, he placed it inside his coat, with a peculiar courtesy in the action, foreign to his kind. He turned, as though to obey her, then, hesitating, turned to her again. Something—it might have been a “thank you,” it might have been some whimsical apology for the discourtesy Fate had thus driven him to offer her—parted the thin lips. What he would have said she never knew! In the next breath they were set, repelling, drawn across the teeth.

Through the open dressing-room, leading to the hall, had come a sound which transfixed them both. There was no mistake! The knob of the door below, at the foot of the stairs, had turned!

For an instant they faced each other, listening! The dark man’s thought was written in his pose—it was that of the animal at bay! He was in danger! The house was awake!

But Margaret, in a flash, surmised the truth. Braving that housebreaker, nerved to her desperate ordeal, she realized that before which her courage melted down like snow. Her predicament—the strangest, maddest whim of chance—has never yet been paralleled, it is likely never will be! The house had been entered again—from below!

There was even then a creeping step upon the stair!

Escape was easy for the burglar. The jewels were safe in his bosom, he had all and more than he came to find! With a silent oath he sprang for the window—but the girl beside him was quicker than he!

Scarce knowing what she did, she flung herself upon him and held him by the arms. Her slender hands were like bands of steel; her eyes, dark with terror, were upraised to his.

She poured forth the secret, which she had given all to guard. Her blanched face was its guarantee of truth.

“You cannot go! You cannot leave me! I am alone!”

He struggled to free himself, to force her away, but she clung to him with the wild abandon of a child. She cried out to him, in sobbing whispers, in agonized entreaty:

“Stay with me! Help me! Help me! I am all alone!”

As they heard the sound again her arms closed upon him.

“Oh, for the love of God!”

The eyes behind the mask burned down upon her. The thought

at that moment behind the eyes only God knew! With a gentleness, the memory of which she carried to the grave, the man suddenly forced her backward into the alcove and drew the curtain so that it concealed them both.

"Let go!" he commanded, in the same low tone. "My right hand must be free!"

She did as she was bidden, standing on the left. Together there, hidden, yet with every other object in the room in bright relief, they waited, listening to that coming, coming tap, tap, tap!

Was it eternal? Would it never end?

Margaret's eyes were riveted upon the line where the light in the bedroom lost itself in the shadow of the dressing-room beyond. It seemed to her that if anything should disturb that shadow, move within it, she must shriek aloud. Vivid, swiftly-changing pictures began to pass and re-pass before her—every scene since her parting with her friends, every unimportant detail of the day just gone—only that betwixt her and that familiar yesterday a timeless gulf now seemed to stretch. She was no more of it than if it were a dream!

The step upon the stair had ceased. There was perfect quiet, broken only by the loud, hard beating of her heart. This stillness was awful; it was worse than the sound. She could not turn her head, yet she could half see the figure at her side. She caught the shifting gleam from something on his right.

Again there was movement! Somewhere there in that uncertain darkness of the dressing-room.

She began to hear the swish and swirl of waters rising about her, and to see the dancing of waves. Something called her back—it was the dark man's hand on her wrist. That touch, reviving, reassuring her, transfusing its iron through her blood! She could look again, seeing as through a blur.

They were not alone in the bedroom. She knew, in spite of the mist that came and went, that some indistinct thing was not far from them, and was drawing toward the curtain. It was looking for the dresser. The dresser was behind them!

The pressure on her arm tightened. "Steady, steady!" it warned her. "Soft, now, soft!" She could feel the tension of the sinewy frame. She closed her eyes, drawing her own strength from it.

They could have touched the man on the other side of the curtain; they could hear him breathe. The fabric trembled between them. Then the groping hand from without laid hold upon it.

There was a motion in the figure beside her, and a loud, involuntary shriek — her own! Then came a crash, and a blinding trail of fire, and another instant crash and blaze in return. The masked man sprang forward, the other man sprang upon him. They fired and fired again. One fell and dragged the other! They locked and rolled, in a tiger-grip, upon the floor. They writhed and panted, in their death-embrace. There was no word, no cry.

Clinging to the curtain over them, Margaret felt the waters rise again! Through the closing darkness she was sensible of a single sound — the thudding of a club on the stones without — an officer, calling help.

Help! Help! But they would be too late for the human tigers at her feet! Her hold on the curtain weakened. She swayed, and fell beside them.

It seemed but a moment before she came to herself, yet she was conscious that in some way all had changed. She stretched her arms — they touched soft pillows. She was lying on her bed.

She sat up. The room was very still. She passed her hand across her eyes. A strange thing had come with her awaking — she was no longer afraid! Creeping up, she slipped from off the bed, and stole out toward the alcove. One dark figure lay there, blotting out the moonlight, his arm thrown heavily across his face. The girl bent over, breathless, looking. A sudden wave of anguish shook her! Which of the two? Was it he who saved her?

She knelt beside the dead man, fiercely, and dragged away his arm.

.

There was a jam and crash, below stairs, as though a door had given way, a confusion of unfamiliar sounds. There was a hurried, shuffling noise of feet, and whispering voices. A round red light shot along the upper wall. But she did not heed it. She noticed nothing. She took the heavy head upon her lap, and pressed her hands against the clotted hair. So the police found her, staring down upon it, sitting like a stone. It was not the face she had feared to find! *The dead man was her brother!*

There was a shout below, from without, and one of the officers who had come in rushed back, thinking it a cry for help. She did not hear it! Afterwards she knew that they had found another man, down where the grounds joined the road, unconscious, dying of his wounds — and with her jewels on his breast.

Margaret Ihlefield told her own story. Neither of the silent witnesses has gainsaid her, and the opinion of the world will not disturb her now.

She alone has known what that awful night first revealed and later research laid bare to her; — her brother, a criminal at twenty-one, through bad company and secret debt, had returned to rob his benefactor and foster-father, and had died, red-handed, in his act.

Who shall judge her? What was there left for her to do? Should she blacken his poor dead name, and drag down her family pride? It was easy to account for his being in town on that ill-fated day, and she did so, and said they had been together in the house. The testimony of the officers, the dead thief with the costly proofs upon him — these were her corroboration. To this hour Harry Ihlefield has been a hero, who gave up his life to defend his sister and his uncle's house, and sleeps beneath a glorious marble shaft, but Margaret was never able to look upon it!

After all, the other man has had his reward! Fainting on that night, and waking to find herself upon her bed, she knew that, wounded to death, he had carried her to that place of safety, his life-blood staining her garments, and his features, as she saw them beneath his mask, always lingered in her memory — the clean-shaven face, with its thin lips and inscrutable eyes!

You may see his picture, too, if you care to step into the Rogues' Gallery. It is there, in a central place — the portrait of one of the most notorious criminals who ever baffled the police!





"I have used Fairy Soap and like it very much as a toilet soap. Its purity renders it exceptionally good for washing fine fabrics."

Free.

Mrs. Chas. D. Sigsbee,
Wife of Capt. Sigsbee, U. S. N.

Fairbank's Fairy Calendar

For 1900 is a beautiful six-piece art calendar, 10 x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in size, on heavy plate stock. There are six different designs (one on each sheet,) elegantly lithographed in colors and tied with silk ribbon. These designs, shown herewith, are original water color paintings by one of America's best artists, and show pretty children in the uniform of our navy, cavalry, artillery, infantry, etc. They are strikingly beautiful and will please everybody.

This calendar is equal to those usually retailed for 50c to \$1.00 in the art and stationery stores, and will be sent free to any address on receipt of five (5) Fairy Soap Wrappers, or 10c in stamps to cover expense of wrapping and mailing.

Address Dept. A.I. The N.K. Fairbank Company, Chicago, Ill.



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THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY.

A Holiday Hint:

*(But for Goodness Sake
Don't Say I Told You!)*



Send him a box of Mandolin Cigars and write: *"May all our troubles end in smoke!"*

THE WOMAN WHO SMOKES

may be a creature of the coming century, but

THE MAN WHO SMOKES

is the man who rules the world in this century.

NO CHRISTMAS GIFT

is more acceptable to the average Father, Brother, Friend or Sweetheart than a box of Choice Cigars. Our "Mandolin" is the best cigar in America for the money. Box of 50 for \$2.25; 100 for \$4.50, express prepaid. We have finer brands, Domestic and Imported, costing from \$5.00 to \$50.00 per hundred and shall be pleased to submit list and prices to Holiday buyers and Everyday buyers. We control favorite brands, import direct, and no house anywhere can better satisfy every taste and every purse.

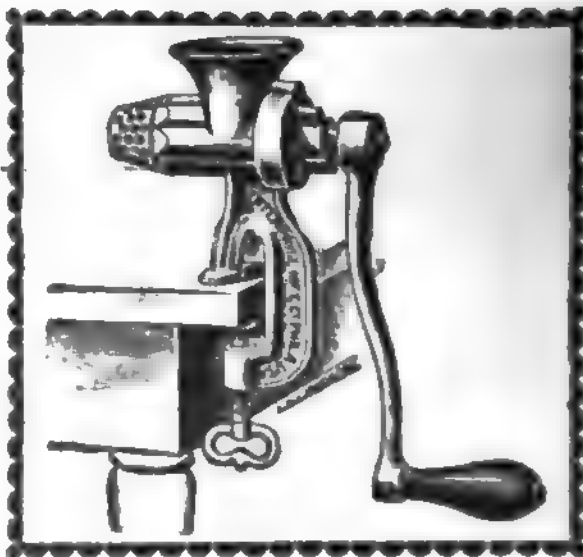
CHARLES B. PERKINS & CO.

36 Kilby St., Boston, Mass.

ENTERPRISE

Meat and Food CHOPPER

Furnishes the housekeeper the easiest, quickest, handiest, most economical means of chopping raw or cooked meats, fish, vegetables, and fruits. No trouble to chop sausage and mince meat, Hamburg steak, tripe, hash, suet, clams, codfish, chicken and lobster for salads, cocoanut, corn, etc. Easily and quickly cleaned; will not break or get out of order.



Sold by all hardware dealers. Price, No. 2, \$1.50; No. 4, \$2.00. Our trade-mark—ENTERPRISE—is on every machine. Descriptive catalogue mailed free. Send 4 cents in stamps for the "Enterprising Housekeeper"—contains 200 choice recipes.

THE ENTERPRISE MFG. CO. OF PA., Third and Dauphin Sts., Philadelphia.

NO!!

I do n't
Drink
Coffee

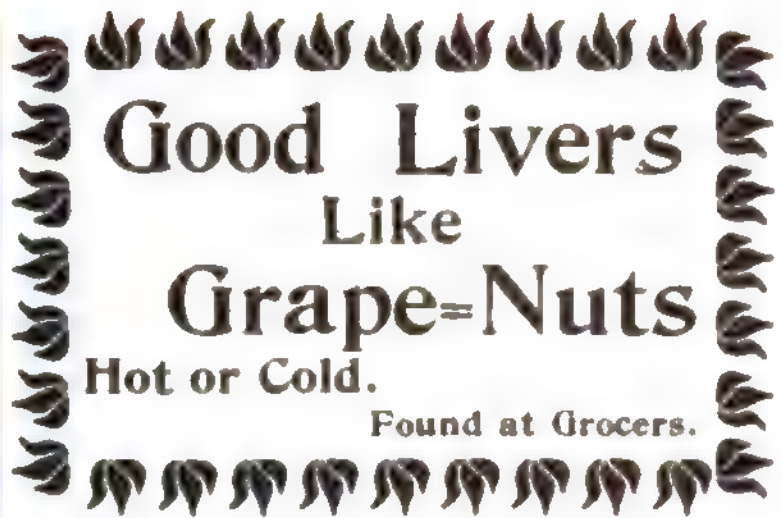
It does not agree
with my health.

The crank is the
man who per-
sists in drink that
slowly ruins his
stomach and
nerves.

I drink

**POSTUM FOOD
COFFEE.**

POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.



**Good Livers
Like
Grape-Nuts**

Hot or Cold.

Found at Grocers.

WHAT THEY ARE.

Composition of the Famous New Food.

A wide spread interest has been created among good livers, as to the composition of Grape-Nuts, the new food that has come into popular use of late. It has long been known to physicians, chemists and food experts, that the starchy portion of entire wheat flour and barley is transformed into a true and very choice sugar, by the act of intestinal digestion in the human body. This sugar is identical with, and is known as grape-sugar, and it is in condition for immediate transformation into blood and the necessary structure from which the delicate nerve centers are built up.

A food expert of the Postum Cereal Co., Lim., Battle Creek, Mich., followed a line of experiments until he produced the food called Grape-Nuts, of which grape-sugar forms the principal part, and it is produced by following out Nature's processes, in a mechanical way.

The new food has a charming flavor and can be served instantly either cold with cream, or, by pouring hot milk or cream over it, one has a hot mush at once.

"PERFECTION"

Air Mattresses

Pillows, Cushions,
Etc.



For Sportsmen: Hunting, Fishing, Camping, or Yachting. May be laid on ground or deck, insuring a comfortable bed, free from dampness.

For Invalids: These Mattresses afford great comfort to invalids and bed ridden patients.

When deflated and rolled small can be packed in grip; weight, ten to eighteen pounds, according to size. Largely used by U. S. Government, sportsmen, and invalids throughout the world.

Catalogue Free.

Mechanical Fabric Co.
40 Sprague St., Providence, R.I.



SIZE AND SHAPE OF CIRCLETTES

'Tis a Fact

That a pair of shoes with three Good Luck Horseshoe-shaped Perfection Circlettes in the heel will give from 25 to 50 per cent additional wear, and the heels never run over.

Send 4 cents in stamps for enough for a pair of shoes, or 10 cents for 3 dozen. Easily driven.

Sanford Mfg. Co.

SUMMER AND HIGH STS., BOSTON, MASS.

The Jones Umbrella "Roof"

MEASURE FROM TIP TO TIP OF RIBS

Put on in
One minute.
No Sewing

Fits any
Frame.



COVER YOUR OWN UMBRELLA

Take the measure (in inches) of your old umbrella cover: count the number of outside ribs; state if the centre rod is steel or wood. If you cannot get the Jones Umbrella "Roof" of your dealer send \$1.00 to us, and we will mail, postpaid, a UNION TWILLED SILK 25 or 26 inch "Adjustable Roof" (27 or 28 inch, \$1.25; 29 or 30 inch, \$1.50). Umbrella "Roofs" at all prices from 50 cents to \$8.00 each, according to quality. If not entirely satisfactory your money promptly refunded, including stamps you have used for postage. Booklet, "Umbrella Economy," with simple instructions necessary, mailed with your order.

THE JONES UMBRELLA CO., Dept. H, 79 Walker St., New York, N. Y.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE HIGHEST GRADES OF UMBRELLAS TO THE LARGEST STORES IN THE WORLD. Agents Wanted.



DR. B. F. BYE'S SANITARIUM, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Cancer

Cured With Soothing Balmy Oils.

Cancer, Tumor, Catarrh, Piles, Fistula, Eczema, and all skin diseases.

Cancer of the nose, eye, lip, ear, neck, breast, stomach—in fact, all internal or external organs or tissues—cured without knife or burning plasters, but with soothing aromatic oils.

Cut this out and send it for an illustrated book on the above diseases. Home treatment sent when desired. Address as above [Mentioning THE BLACK CAT], Box 246.



\$9.00 Buys A High Arm Sewing Machine

Adapted for light or heavy work. Makes double lock stitch, has self threading shuttle, 20 YEARS GUARANTEE. Without any money in advance we will send to your home on thirty days' FREE TRIAL your choice of our Desk Cabinet sewing machines, as illustration, or our 3, 5 or 7 drawer machines, with best solid steel attachments. **WE PAY FREIGHT.** Buy direct and save agents' and dealers' profits. CATALOGUE FREE. Address

B SHEPHERD MFG. CO., 296 E. 22nd St., Chicago.



**Marshall's
Catarrh
Snuff
Cures Catarrh**

For 65 years it has never been equalled for the instant relief of Catarrh, Cold in the Head and Headache. Cures Deafness, restores lost sense of smell. Price 25 cts., at all Druggists or by mail postpaid. **F. C. KEITH, Mfr., Cleveland, O.**

AMATEUR

Vaudeville and Minstrel performers. For **ONE DOLLAR** I will send you ten original parodies on popular songs, five screamingly funny monologues, a brand-new stump speech and hundreds of Irish, Dutch, Hebrew and Black-face jokes, suitable for all kinds of vaudeville acts. Just the thing for club and home entertainments. My work highly endorsed by Tony Pastor, Rogers Bros., Sam Bernard and leading vaudeville stars. **JAMES C. MADISON, 134 EAST 79TH ST., N. Y.**



WAR STAMPS— 55 different genuine stamps. South Africa Rep., Cuba, Natal, Cape of Good Hope with stamp album and large price list. **Only 10 CENTS.** Agents Wanted. **C.E. Huesman Stamp Company.** Dept., C, St. Louis Mo.

Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Gout, Lumbago
AND OTHER DISEASES CAUSED BY URIC ACID IN THE BLOOD positively cured. Send for Booklet.
THE SWISS-AMERICAN CO
OR WINDSOR ONT CANADA 4 OPERA BLOCK DETROIT, MICH. U.S.A.



THEY DRAW FREE— Smoke evenly and have the imported nut-like rich flavor

ROLLED CIGAR
full cigar size, box of 50 for \$1.25 prepaid to any address.

LUCKE'S ROLLS
(slightly smaller) box of 100 for \$1.00, prepaid.



TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY. J. H. LUCKE & CO., Lucke Block, CINCINNATI, OHIO. DELICIOUS TO THE END.
We guarantee flavor equal to any imported cigar sold in U.S. or money back.

Mr. Vanderbilt's \$10,000 Cook

may possibly be able to make nice desserts with other gelatine some of the time. But with *Knox's Gelatine* he or any other cook is bound to make perfect desserts all of the time—*It's all in the Gelatine*.

3

Reasons

Why You Should
Use Knox's
Gelatine:

1 It is endorsed by the most noted teachers of cookery (see list in our little cook book) as "the **Purest and Best**," as having the "Finest Flavor" and as "Never Failing."

2 It has been awarded **10 Prize Medals** and diplomas (see list in our little cook book) for superiority over all other brands, and is now the **Standard Gelatine**.

3 It is simpler to prepare than any other, is more healthful than pastry and puddings, and is the **Only Guaranteed Gelatine**.



3

Things

You Should Do If
You Want Del-
cious Desserts:

1 If your cook won't use Knox's Gelatine get another cook. The **Wrong Cook** uses the Wrong Gelatine.

2 If your grocer won't sell Knox's Gelatine get another grocer. The **Right Grocer** sells the Right Gelatine.

3 If you haven't "**Dainty Desserts for Dainty People**," send a 2-cent stamp for it. Even the biggest cook can learn something from this little book.

Knox's Gelatine

Is sold by Grocers, or sent, postpaid, (together with a free copy of "Dainty Desserts for Dainty People") pint sample, 5c.; two quart package, 15c. (2 for 25c.). Pink Gelatine for fancy desserts in every package. CHAS. B. KNOX, 20 Knox Ave., Johnstown, N. Y.

THE CLEANEST GELATINE FACTORY IN THE WORLD.

THE
SIOUX

\$2.75

EMBROIDERED.



Heavy Indian Tanned MOOSE HIDE MOCCASINS.

Men's, Boys', Women's, Misses' and Children's Sizes.

The Moccasin has stood the test of ages by that race of hunters, the American Indians, who were the originators of the camp, the trap, the snow shoe and the canoe. Send for our free catalogue of Moccasins, and also

The Putman Boots. FOR HUNTERS, EXPLORERS, AND ENGINEERS.

Putman Boots are Waterproof and Made to Measure.

H. J. PUTMAN & CO.,
Bridge Square and First St.,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Send for order blank showing how to measure your foot.

Have the Rich Taste

unmistakable in genuine tropical-grown tobacco. Altogether superior to unclimatic domestic stock.

ROLLED CIGAR

full cigar size, box of 50 for \$1.25 prepaid to any address.

LUCKE'S ROLLS

(slightly smaller) box of 100 for \$1.00, prepaid.

TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY. J. H. LUCKE & CO., Lucke Block, CINCINNATI, OHIO. DELICIOUS TO THE END. We guarantee flavor equal to any imported cigar sold in U.S. or money back.

THE
TROOP
TRADE MARK
WHISKEY
BOTTLED BY
AARON WARD & SONS,
NEWARK, N. J.

An old, mellow, Rye Whiskey

Case 4 bottles, \$5.00

" 6 " 7.25

" 12 " 14.00

*Delivered by Express in plain cases,
prepaid.*

The "Old Reliable Parker"



ALWAYS IN EVIDENCE.

At the Chamberlain Cartridge & Target Co.'s Tournament, held at Cleveland, Ohio, June 14th and 15th, 1899, it won First and Second High Average in the AMATEUR class and First High Average in the EXPERT class, with scores as follow: 97.88 per cent. in AMATEUR class and 90.4 per cent. in EXPERT class.

Fred Gilbert, with a Parker Gun, at Sioux City, Iowa, June 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, shooting at 910 targets scored 97.3 per cent.

These Records show that the PARKER GUN for close, hard shooting, and ability to perform continuous hard work is excelled by none.

Send for catalogue to

Parker Brothers, Meriden, Conn.

New York Salesroom, 96 Chambers St.

**ENGLAND'S
GREATEST
THINKER.**



**AMERICA'S
GREATEST
CIGAR.**

Herbert Spencer

**A BETTER 10c. CIGAR THAN YOU
EVER OBTAINED BEFORE.**

The mediocre quality of most Cigars retailing at this price has induced us to put on the market THE HERBERT SPENCER — a Cigar that in size, quality of tobacco and workmanship is superior to any for the money.

**In order to introduce the HERBERT SPENCER
Cigar quickly among a class of smokers who will
appreciate its superiority, we will send by mail
a box of 12, Conchas Especiales size, on receipt of**

\$1.00

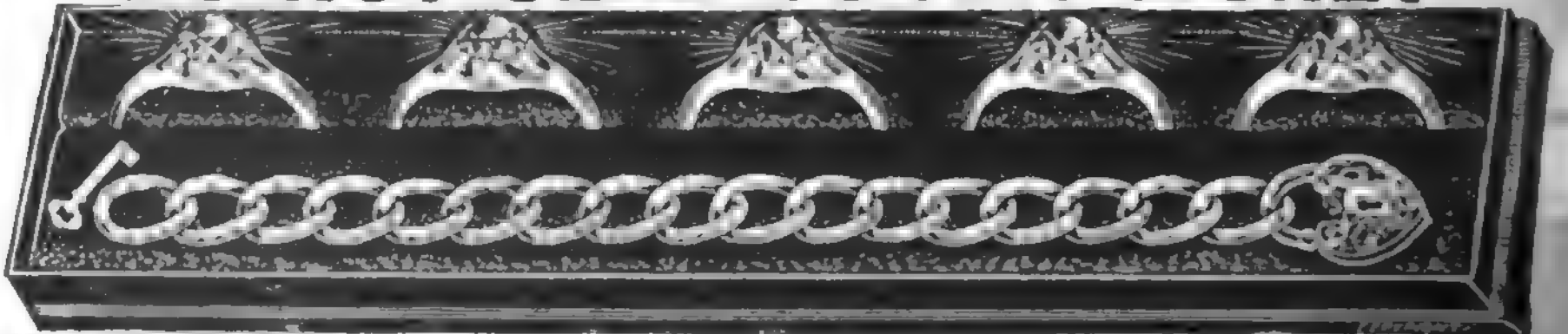
We believe that after trying the HERBERT SPENCER Cigar you will insist upon your dealer supplying you. If he hesitates, order from us. This special offer is only made for the purpose of introduction and deserves the immediate attention of every smoker who wants a high-grade article that is in every respect equal to most cigars for which more money is asked.

Price List to the Trade Sent on Application.

**The New England News Company,
BOSTON.**

**The American News Company,
NEW YORK.**

DO NOT SEND US ANY MONEY



LOOK

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS GRAND OFFER.
A Magnificent Solid Gold-Plated Initial Bracelet or Ring
 Our Rings are all set with a carefully selected Ruby or Emerald Stone, mounted in a Tiffany setting. The Bracelets are in the latest style, popular Curb Link; the lock and key being exquisitely engraved. They present a beautiful appearance and will wear a lifetime. Over 100,000 young ladies are now wearing our rings and bracelets. We guarantee every-

FREE

thing just as we advertise. **Just send us your name and address** (letter or postal), that's all. **We will send you 10 large handsome stamped doilies**, ready for embroidering (Carnations, Roses, Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Holly). Each pattern a prize-selected design. Sell these to your friends at 10c. each, send us the one dollar collected and we will promptly send you the bracelet with **your initial engraved** on it, or a ring; take your choice. **Our reliability is established.** We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any National Bank in this city. **Write sure to-day** for the doilies; your success is certain sell at sight and wanted in every home. (Write to Dept. 96) **STERLING JEWELRY CO., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.**

A Free Trip to Paris!

Persons of mechanical or inventive mind desiring a free trip to The Paris Exposition with salary, should write **The PATENT RECORD, Baltimore, Md.**



FREE! FREE!

Any one can earn this Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winder Watch, Charm and Chain, guaranteed a perfect timekeeper, by selling our Incandescent Lamp Wicks. They can be sold in a few hours. Are practically indestructible. No trimming, no smoke, no smell.

OUR GRAND 90-DAY OFFER:

Send your name and address, and we send you 20 wicks, postpaid; sell them at 5c. each and remit us \$1, and we will mail to you free a

BEAUTIFUL GOLD PLATED WATCH CHAIN AND CHARM.
INCANDESCENT WICK CO., DEPT. B.C. BRIDGEPORT, CONN.



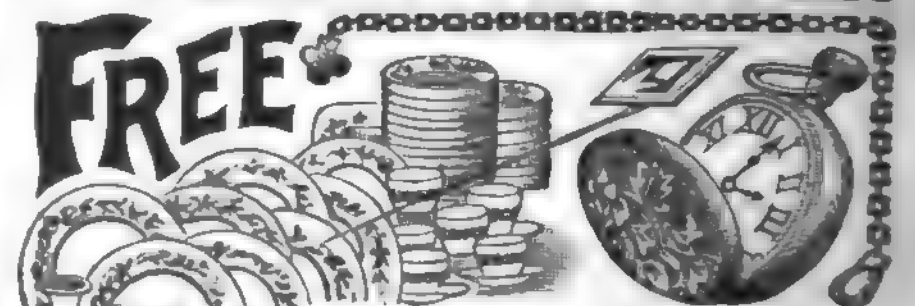
ANY ONE CAN EASILY EARN A WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM—LADIES' OR GENTS' STYLE—GOLD PLATED, NICKEL OR SILVER WATCH, (not a big clock called a watch). **CHAIN BRACELET** with lock and key, **56-PIECE TEA SET** (full size for family use), **GOLD FINISHED INITIAL**

RING. We mean every word we say. To quickly introduce our house and goods we will give away thousands of the above presents **ABSOLUTELY FREE.** Send us your name and address (no money), and we will mail you, postpaid 15 beautiful stamped **DOILIES**, different designs, with 15 exquisitely perfumed love charms. Sell the Doilies at 10c. each and give one charm free with each. When sold send us the \$1.50 and we will at once send you for selling 15, one Watch-Chain and Charm and a Ring with any letter you wish, together with our offer of a 56 piece Tea Set, etc. **PARIS ART CO., B.C. MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.**

PARALYSIS Locomotor Ataxia conquered at last. Doctors puzzled, Professors amazed at the return to health of patients thought to be incurable, by **DR. CHASE'S BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD.** Write me about your case. Will send proof of cures with advice free. Dr. Chase, 224 N. 10th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

COMBINATION OFFER

FREE



Anyone can easily earn a Watch Chain and Charm—ladies' or gents' style—gold plated nickel or silver Watch (not a clock called a watch), gold finished pearl Initial Pin & a 56-Piece Tea Set full size, for family use. This Tea Set is beautifully decorated and most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome TEA SET, A GOLD WATCH CHAIN & CHARM with PEARL INITIAL PIN for selling our Bluing and Ink Powder. We mean what we say and will give this beautiful Tea Set, Watch, etc., **ABSOLUTELY FREE** if you will comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Bluing and Ink Powder, if you agree to sell only 15 packages at 10c a package, write to-day (SEND NO MONEY) and we will forward the goods prepaid, when sold SEND US the \$1.50 and we send you for selling the 15, one Watch Chain & Charm & a Pearl Initial Pin with any letter you wish together with our offer of a 56-piece china Tea Set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every one in the land and all who receive the Tea Set, Watch, etc., are delighted.

Chemical Specialty Co., Dept. B. C.
 40 West 22d St., New York City.



FREE YOU CAN EARN THESE PRESENTS

Also many others selling **Ko-Zo Breath Perfume** and Throat Ease at 5cents a package, and our **Sachet Powder**, the strongest and most lasting perfume known, at 10 cents per packet, or you can make a large cash commission. **NO MONEY REQUIRED** until goods are sold. Send full address and we will send you \$2 worth of goods, 20 packages of Ko-Zo and 10 packages of Sachet Powder, when sold send us the \$2, and we will send you a present according to our large illustrated Premium List (which we send with goods) which shows over 200 valuable presents we offer. Our goods sell at sight. All your friends will help you earn a present or cash. **NO RISK. WE TRUST YOU** and take back what you cannot sell. **H. L. WASHBURN PERFUME CO., Dept. B. C. 110 Nassau St., New York City.**

NEW INVENTION A \$12.00 Bath Cabinet For only \$5.00

Our New 1902 Style Square Quaker Folding Turkish Bath Cabinet
GUARANTEED TO BE THE BEST OF ALL CABINETS AT ANY PRICE,
 or your money cheerfully refunded.



Engraved from Photograph.

COULD NOT BE BETTER MADE, MORE CONVENIENT,
 MORE DURABLE, MORE HANDSOME, MORE SATISFAC-
 TORY IF YOU PAID FOUR TIMES THE PRICE WE ASK
 FOR IT. Ready for use when received. No frame to set up.
 No trouble; no bother.

IT IS THE ONLY GENUINE CABINET MADE.

HAS A REAL DOOR, opens wide—hinged to frame.
 Other Cabinets with so-called door are simply a hole or slit
 to crawl through. **FRAMEWORK** strong and rigid, made
 of best steel, galvanized to prevent its rusting. **EIGHT**
UPRIGHTS support it from top to bottom. Some affairs
 on the market have no supports whatever. Cabinet rests on
 shoulders—others have 2 or 3 flimsy supports, shaky and un-
 satisfactory. **DURABLE COVERING MATERIAL,**
 very best antiseptic cloth—**RUBBER LINED.** **TOP**
CURTAINS open on top for cooling off—cabinets that do
 not do this are said to be dangerous. **LARGE AND**
ROOMY INSIDE. Knees, arms and body do not touch the
 sides. Plenty of room for hot foot bath, and to sponge, tow-
 el and cool the body while inside. **FOLDS FLAT** like a
 screen in 1 inch space—others crush together and damage
 the goods. **WEIGHS** complete only 10 pounds. **EASILY**
CARRIED.

WE HAVE BEEN MAKING GENUINE BATH CABINETS FOR YEARS. 27,000 physicians and 1,000,-
 00 happy users recommend our Cabinet in the highest and strongest terms. We are the largest man-
 ufacturers of Bath Cabinets in the world. Our annual sales 300,000 Cabinets. Value, \$1,500,000.00.
 One hundred times more than all other firms.

**There is no Man, Woman or Child in the World
 Whom Turkish and Vapor Baths will not Benefit.**

Seated on a chair (with the head outside breathing pure
 air) one enjoys at home for 3c each, all of the cleansing, cura-
 tive, invigorating and purifying effects of the famous Turkish,
 hot Air and Vapor baths, perfumed or medicated if desired.
 Better and cheaper than any treatment at Turkish Bath
 Rooms, Sanitariums and Hot Springs.

SO SIMPLE TO OPERATE.

Before retiring, light stove, step in Cabinet, close and lock
 door, sit down and you enjoy a temperature of 100° to 150° F.
 according to how you regulate stove. **All done in one**
minute. Stay in 15 to 30 minutes—open top curtains, cool
 off gradually while you sponge and towel the body. Impos-
 sible to catch cold or weaken the system. Perfectly safe and
 harmless.

DON'T BE DECEIVED

By imitations. We do not make it our business to find fault
 with other people's goods, but as there are a number of unreli-
 able, irresponsible concerns who have sprung up in the past
 few months, know nothing whatever of the laws of hygiene,
 and have no regard for the public health, are trying to market
 so-called Cabinets, which are inconvenient, unreliable and
 dangerous to use, on the strength of satisfaction given, and
 the enormous demand created for our genuine Quaker, and
 as we have many letters from persons who have bought such
 goods, are unable to use them, and obliged to throw them away
 and secure a genuine Cabinet from us, we feel it our duty to
 warn the public, so that no one else may be imposed upon.

If our Cabinet is not the best in every way
 we do not want you to keep it.

Don't use a Cabinet which has no door, no frame, no rubber
 lining. Remember a wooden frame Cabinet is ten
 years behind the times, is worthless, and about as valu-
 able as a wooden stove would be.

Do not pay \$7.50, \$12.50 or \$18.00 for inferior, bunglesome
 and inconvenient affairs when the best costs only \$5.00.

Place your order with us and you have the sat-
 isfaction of knowing you are doing business with a respon-
 sible and reliable firm (capital \$100,000.00) who know the
 requirements of a first-class Cabinet, do exactly as they
 agree and furnish you a genuine Cabinet, guaranteed to be
 the best in every particular.

Write today for full information and our valu-
 able book, also testimonials from thousands of customers.
 Or, better still, order a Cabinet. You won't be deceived or
 disappointed, as we guarantee every one and refund your
 money after 30 days' use if not just as represented. We ship
 the same day your order is received. **DO NOT FAIL**
TO SEND FOR BOOKLET, as it will prove in-
 teresting.

AGENTS AND SALESMEN WANTED MEN and WOMEN—BIG WAGES. \$30.00 to \$50.00
 Weekly to open offices or parlors, to appoint agents or travel. A won-
 derful seller. We will spend \$350,000 advertising this Cabinet. This will create an enormous demand right in your local-
 ity. You carry small stock and supply it. Most liberal terms and commissions. Be your own boss. Any energetic man or
 woman can make \$5.00 to \$10.00 clear daily. Write for our new plan, terms, etc., free. Send your address anyway.

The World Manufacturing Co., 671 World B'd'g, Cincinnati, O.

[We know this firm to be reliable and to do as they agree. the Cabinet is just as represented.—Editor.]

It is the only Bath which PRESERVES HEALTH.
PREVENTS Colds, Fevers, Lagrippe and
 Disease.

CURES bodily ailments. Makes clear skin,
 pure blood, strong nerves, clear brain, healthy
 bodies.

Makes you sleep sound. Beautifies complex-
 ion.

SOAP AND WATER simply washes the surface of the skin,
 while Vapor baths open the 5,000,000 pores all over the body,
 stimulating the sweat glands, washing out all the poisons in
 the blood, and the impure acids, salts, etc., which if retained
 overwork and weaken the heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, causing
 disease, debility and sluggishness.

WE POSITIVELY GUARANTEE RESULTS.

Our Cabinet is recommended by 27,000 best physicians, and
 it will cure Nervous Troubles and Debility,
 Sleeplessness, Obesity, Lagrippe, Neuralgia.

CURES RHEUMATISM—(we have offered
 for four years a standing reward of \$50.00 for
 a case not relieved). Cures Woman's Troubles,
 Headache, Gout, Piles, Dropsy, Diabetes, all
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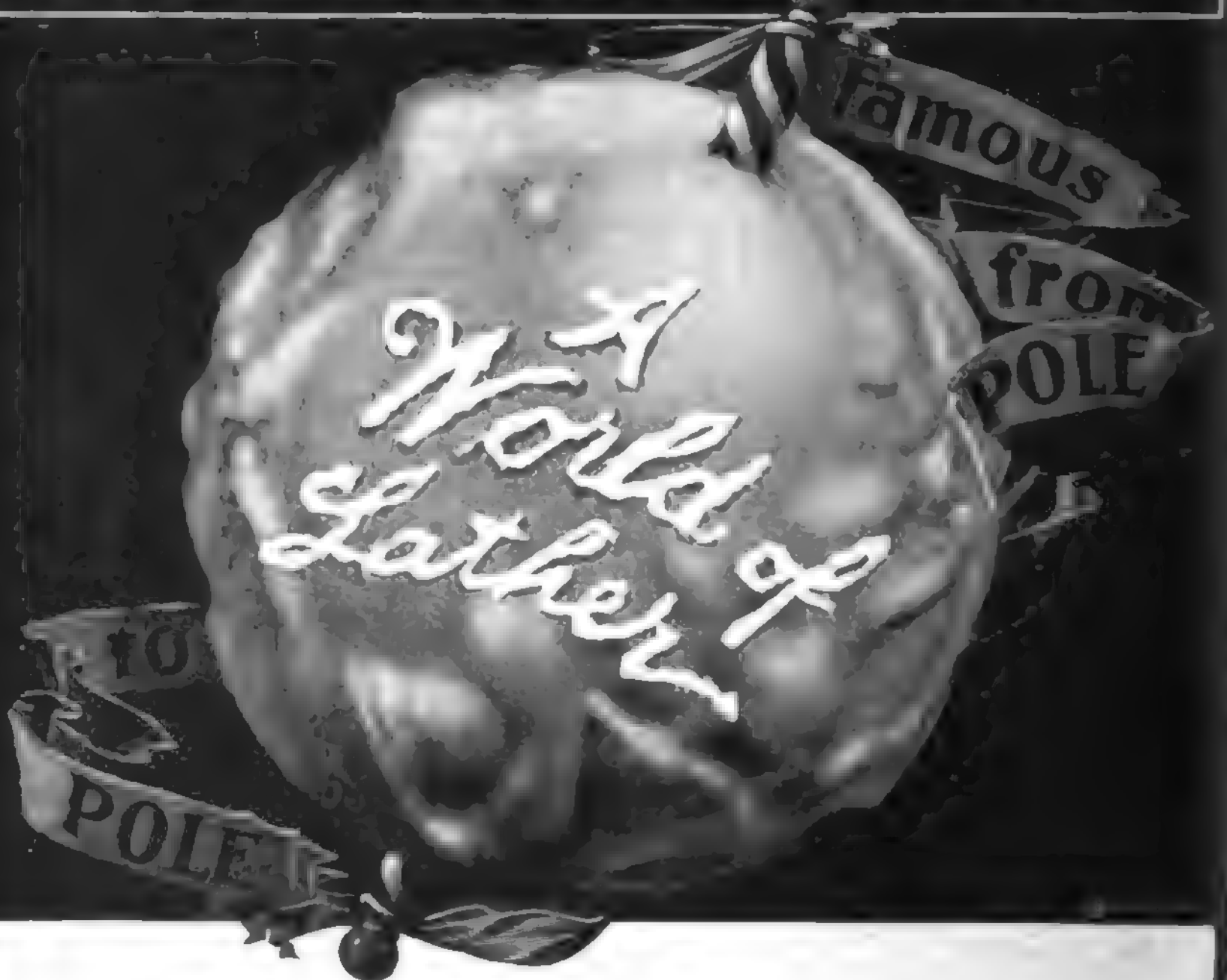
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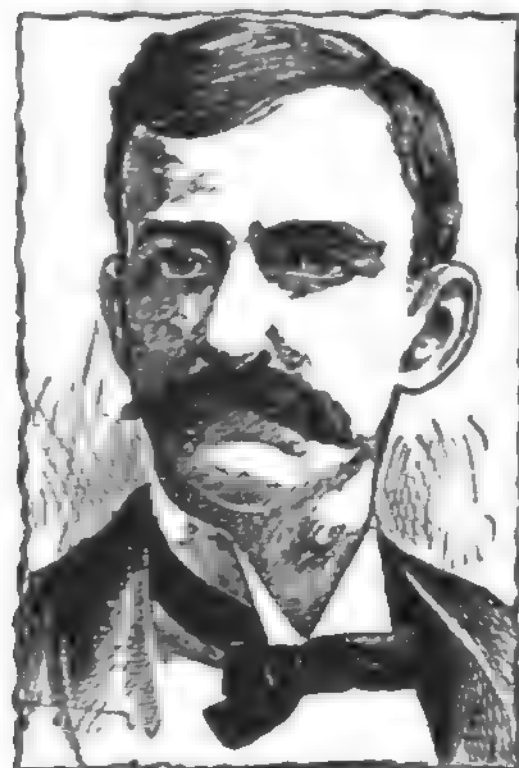
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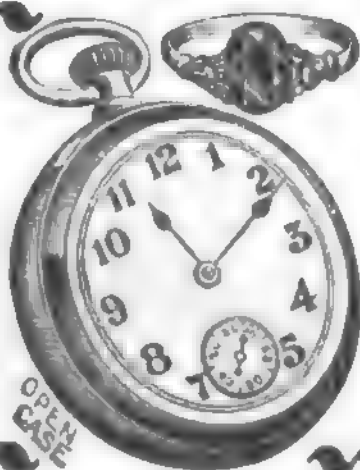
4. With every manuscript intended for this \$4,200 Prize Competition, there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. In case of subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added to cover postage.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1900, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than \$100 each, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto.

IMPORTANT. As no manuscripts in the case of which all the above conditions have not been complied with will be considered, it is urged that competitors make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance with the foregoing, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, with the necessary enclosures, and sent fully prepaid.

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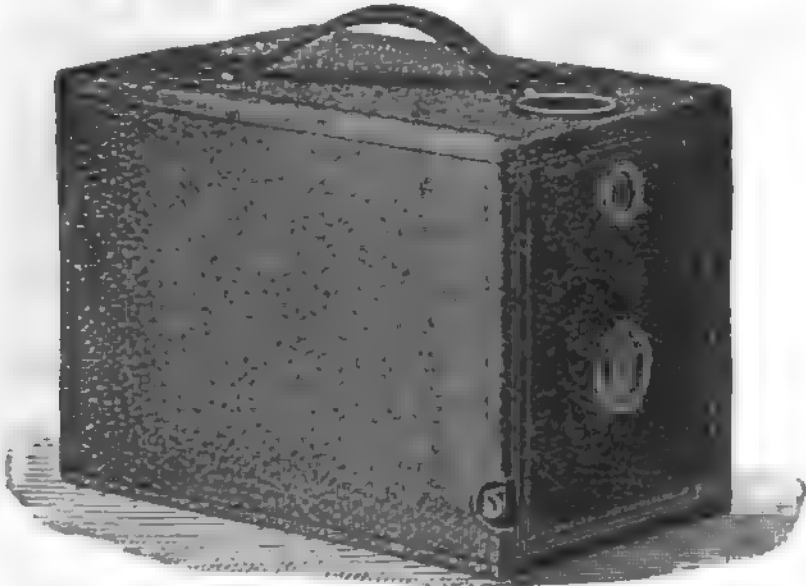
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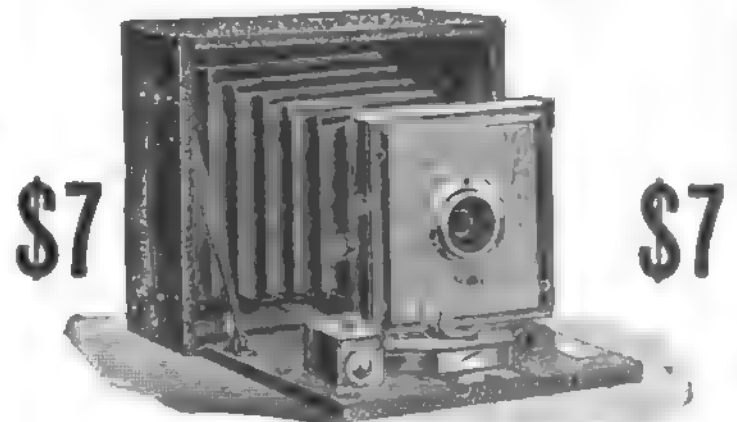
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For full particulars of this wonderful treatment, together with a large number of Photographs showing the condition of some of the patients before and after taking the treatment, write for the **New Scientific Herald**. It tells all about it: how people are cured, etc.

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MRS. LIBBIE BARNUM.

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Some Facts Regarding the Rapid Increase of Heart Trouble.

Heart trouble, at least among the Americans, is certainly increasing and while this may be largely due to the excitement and worry of American business life, it is more often the result of weak stomachs, of poor digestion.

Real organic disease is incurable, but not one case in a hundred of heart trouble is organic.

The close relation between heart trouble and poor digestion is because both organs are controlled by the same great nerves, the Sympathetic and Pneumogastric.

In another way, also the heart is affected by the form of poor digestion which causes gas and fermentation from half digested food. There is a feeling of oppression and heaviness in the chest caused by pressure of the distended stomach on the heart and lungs, interfering with their action; hence arises palpitation and short breath.

Poor digestion also poisons the blood, making it thin and watery, which irritates and weakens the heart.

The most sensible treatment for heart trouble is to improve the digestion and to insure the prompt assimilation of food.

This can be done by the regular use after meals of some safe, pleasant and effective digestive preparation, like Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, which may be found at most drug stores, and which contain valuable, harmless, digestive elements in a pleasant, convenient form.

It is safe to say that the regular, persistent use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at meal time will cure any form of stomach trouble, except cancer of the stomach.

Full sized package of these tablets sold by druggists at 50 cents. Little book on stomach troubles mailed free. Address, F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

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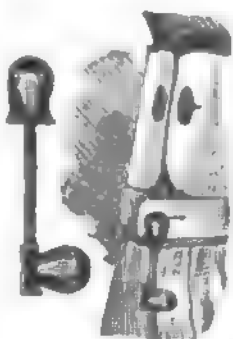
We send work to your home prepaid. Send addressed envelope for one piece of embroidery with prices paid. If our terms or work are not to your liking, you may return at our expense. Steady work and good pay. **EMPIRE EMB. WORKS**, Dept. B C 136 Liberty St., New York

LADIES THE CHANCE IS YOURS FOR PLEASANT HOME WORK.

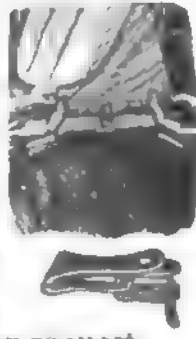
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creates the surprise. In taste they're not excelled by anything which can be grown.

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full cigar size, box of 50 for \$1.25 prepaid to any address.

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Finest Quality of Human Hair about One-third ordinary prices.

2 oz. 20 inches, \$0.90	3 oz. 24 inches, \$2.25
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Remit five cents for postage.

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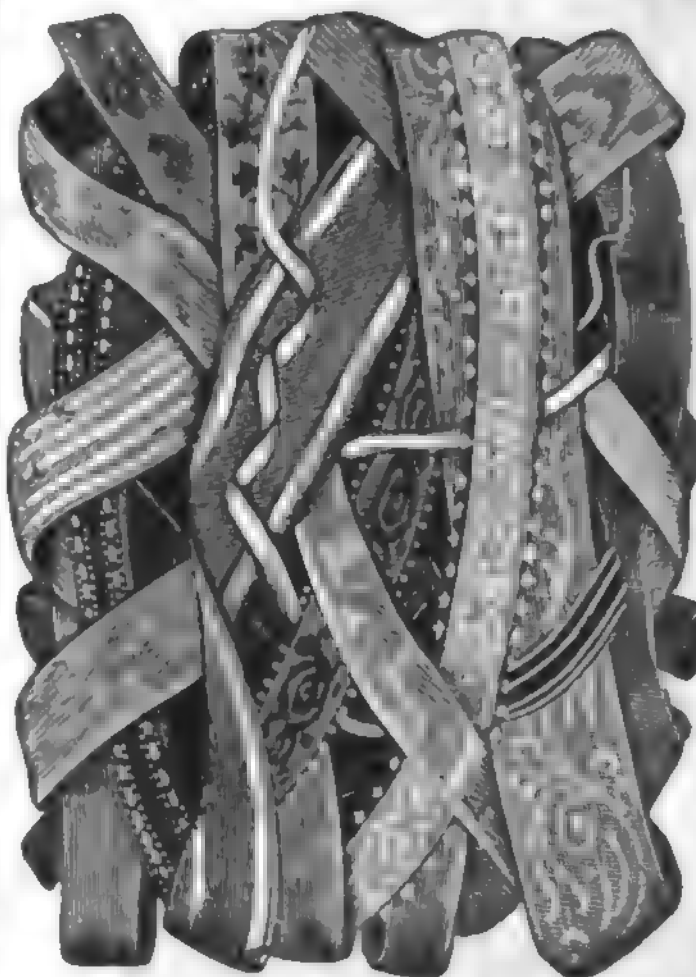
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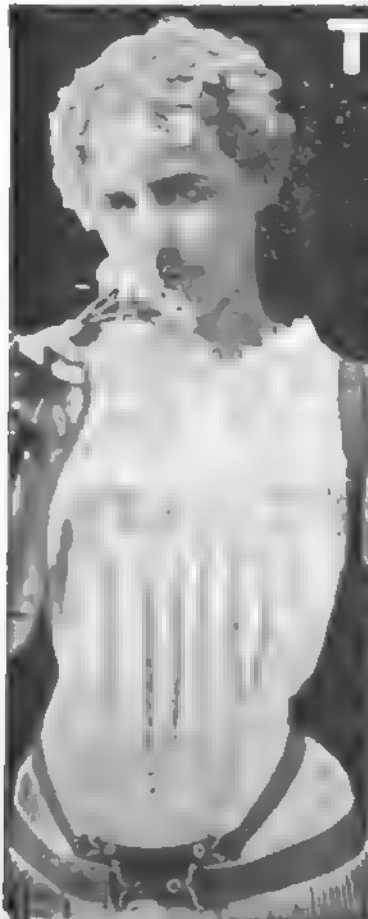
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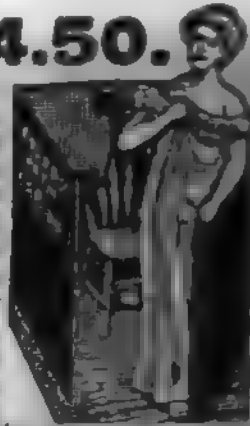
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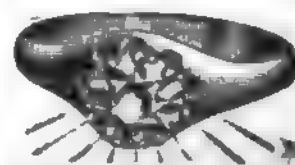
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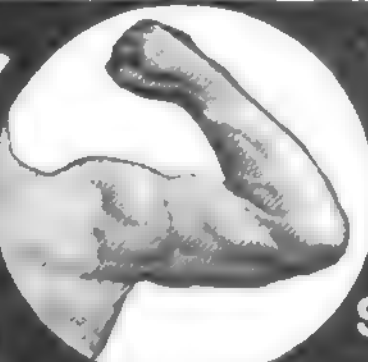
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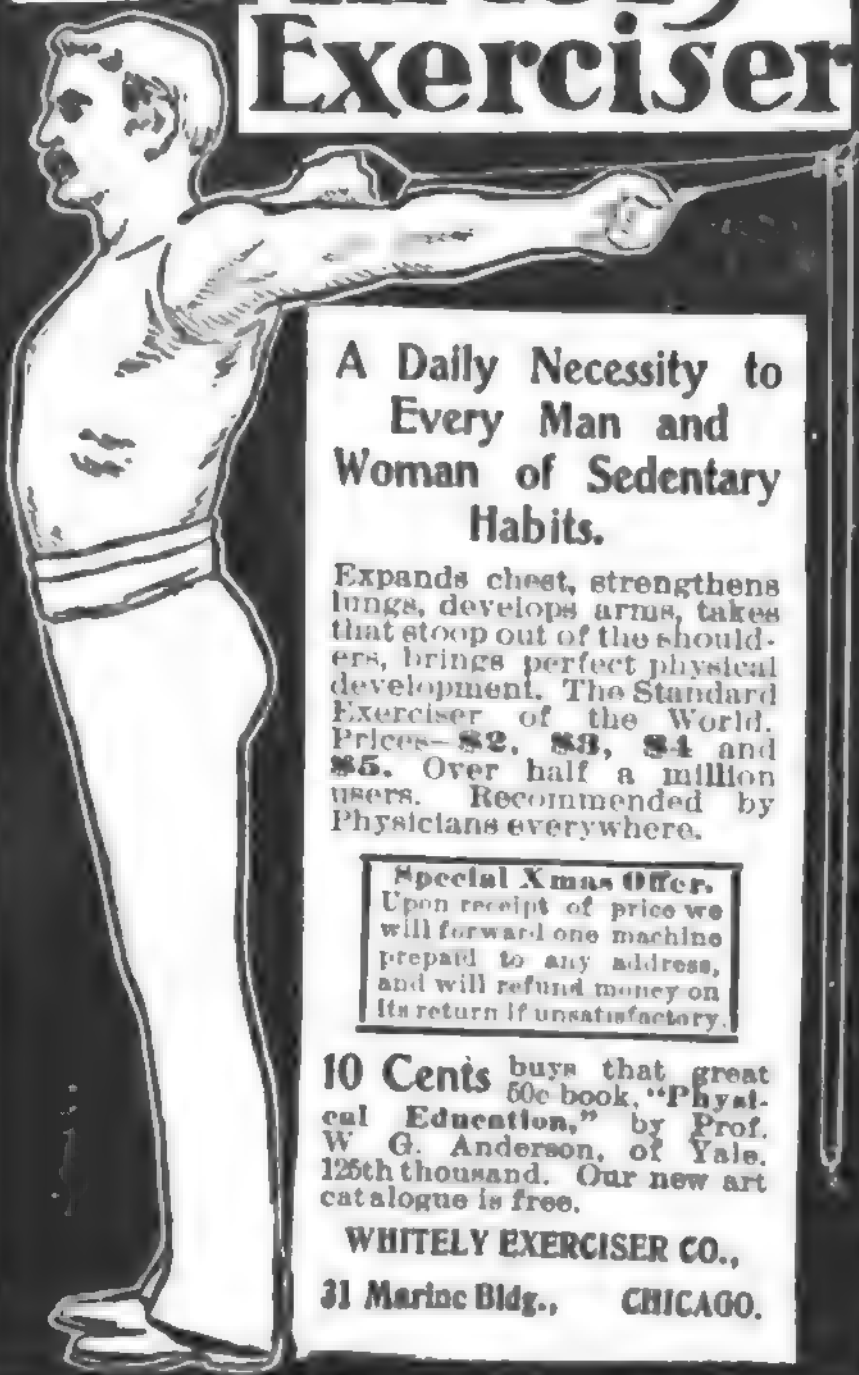
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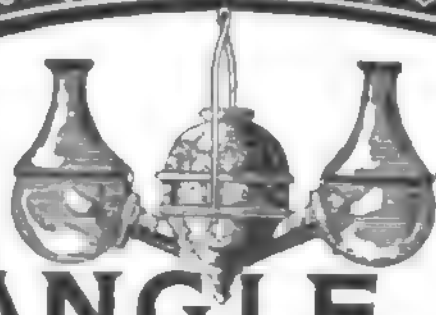
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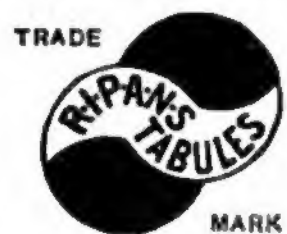
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